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Garcia scandal sa AFP: Pakana nga ba ng CIA?

Military says drugs good for 6 months after expiry

By Christian V. Esguerra and Blanche S. Rivera

ITEM, reeling from a corruption scandal, the Armed Forces may have just been plunged in...

AFP information officer Lt. Col. Bienvenido Ramos Saturday said that some...

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

RP's sick image blamed on misunderstood icons

By Vincent Cabreza

Monday, November 1, 2004 ■ 52 pages / vol. 19 / no. 337

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Dead heat looms in White House race

Bush, Kerry scrambling for votes in 10 states

WASHINGTON—The race for the White House is wide open as it heads down the wire with US President George W. Bush and Democratic Sen. John Kerry scrambling for votes over the weekend in about 10 battleground states that hold the key to victory on Tuesday.

Kerry mussed in a one-point lead over Bush nationwide and held the edge in six key battleground states, according to Reuters/Zogby polls released on Saturday. Kerry led Bush 47-46 percent, well within the margin of error in the latest three-day national tracking poll. Bush and Kerry were tied at 47 percent on Friday.

"Bush continues to hold on to solid support among Republicans, conservatives, married voters and born-again Christians," pollster John Zogby said. "Kerry appears to lead among young voters, African-Americans and Hispanics."

A Newsweek poll, however, showed Bush ahead of Kerry 51-44 percent. A week ago, the same survey had the race tied. Bush briefly opened a small lead in an ABC poll, but it had vanished by Saturday night.

According to the Reuters/Zogby poll, only 1 percent of likely voters remain undecided. At this stage of the disputed 2000 election, Bush had led Democratic rival Al Gore by four points in the daily tracking poll.

The national poll of 1,209 likely voters was taken Wednesday through Friday and had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points. The rolling poll will continue through Monday.

The national poll showed independent candidate Ralph Nader, blamed by some Democrats for diverting enough votes from Gore to cost him the election in 2000, with 1.8 percent.

The polls of about 600 likely voters in each of the battleground states were taken Wednesday through Saturday.

The states the most results in: Colorado, Bush led 50-48 percent; Florida, Kerry led 49-47 percent; Iowa, Kerry 47-46 percent; Michigan, Kerry 49-47 per

LEANING PILLAR OF THE DEAD: A young boy makes a final cleanup of the tombs of his relatives at the South Cemetery in Makati on the eve of the nationwide observance of All Saints' Day.

X-file case: Spirits show up in photos

By Jerry E. Esplanada

Hospice care for the dying alive and well in RP

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"DEATH is the natural end of life. It is not the failure of medicine."

Those were the words of the late Dr. Josefina B. Magno, hospice pioneer in the United States and the Philippines.

Hospice care for the terminally ill and dying is alive and well, thanks to Magno's groundbreaking efforts and the quiet dedication of individuals who seek out those who are in need of palliative care and comfort.

Thanks, too, to a young teenager named Sarah Katrina Adriano, who passed away in 2003 at the age of 14, and her parents, who had sought ways to make sense of their loss and pain. In the process, they discovered many places in the hearts of generous persons and all together they created a path to a different kind of healing.

The Tricare now the Made-by Arbor Hospice Foundation's volunteers and medical workers have been serving terminally-ill Laguna Lake, visiting homes and hovels, places where there are persons waiting out their final days. Pain—physical, emotional and spiritual—need not be their constant bedside companion.

Most people think of hospices as institutions with in-patient facilities. Made-by Arbor's hospice service is "home-based, for love and rendered in the grass-roots level."

Julicia Julio, 37, married with four kids, has a cancerous breast tumor that she has been carrying around for five years. The tumor is now so big it weighs about 1.8 kilos, said hospice nurse Margie Lubiserta.

Despite the lacerations visited her recently, Julia was walking down the street with that weight on her left breast, but she was all smiles and with only a look of self-pity.

COMMENTARY

ULTIMATUM: Filipina Angelica Nazon (center) is flanked by fellow hostages Romelita Flanigan and Shajjie Abdul in this video grab from Al Jazeera on Saturday, the day their Afghan captors issued several demands and a three-day deadline for them to be met, otherwise the trio would be killed. (Story on Page A7.)

Top killers attributed to lifestyle

By Lynee A. Villarba

WHAT KILLS Filipinos?

What killed the person you loved or whose grave you are lighting a candle or laying a sprig of rose today?

Dr. Omar Antolin II., a known integrative medicine practitioner "of last resort" for cancer patients the past few decades, says that while the number of communicable diseases in the country has gone down, that of "lifestyle" diseases has soared.

Cancer has risen up the death ladder, occupying third position on the causes of death in the Philippines since 1999—a big jump from no. 7 slot in 1966.

Except for accidents, what brings Filipinos to their graves are chronic diseases attributed to lifestyle, experts say. Which only means that they need not have died so soon.

A look at some data from the Department of Health and from hospital records shows that most Filipinos today die of "luxe" killers. The list of the "top 10 killers," besides heart attacks, are vascular disease (hypertension), cancer, pneumonia, pulmonary disease, respiratory disease, accidents, tuberculosis, diabetes and kidney disease.

The best preventive seems to—undercover one thing—that more Filipinos die without

US election fires up passions for or against Bush

By Amando Doronila

NO AMERICAN presidential election in the past four decades has aroused more intense international interest and partisanship than the current neck-and-neck race for the White House between US President George W. Bush and Democratic Sen. John Kerry.

Many world leaders have taken sides, and leading newspapers around the globe have discarded neutrality.

The presidential contest has lived up to much passion—for or against Bush—that much of the rest of the world is in a mood to intervene, as thought the US election has become a global referendum on Bush's war on terrorism more than it is an American people's political exercise.

The election is being closely watched internationally because it is being held with America in the midst of war—albeit is in many ways like a war involving many countries allied with it.

ANALYSIS

Historically Americans had elected rocks when they were at war—as in World War II—or when they were confronted by life-and-death crisis, as in the 1963 Cuban missile crisis involving the Soviet Union.

But this year's election has a powerful distance element.

"We have a level of intensity in this election, I don't have not seen it since the one since 1968 and the war in Vietnam and Lyndon Johnson," says the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate.

Electoral turnout is expected to rise to 60 percent of 121 million voters.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Pinoy's abductors set 3-day deadline

By TJ Burgonio

MILITANTS holding three foreign hostages, including a Filipino diplomat, in Kabul set a three-day deadline Sunday for foreign troops and the United Nations to leave Afghanistan, otherwise they will kill the foreigners.

The hostages' government will "witness the death of their nationals in three days" unless four demands are met, said Mullah Mohammed Mitoq, spokesperson for the Jaish-e Muslimeen (Army of Muslims), a breakaway Taliban group.

Filipino diplomat Angelito Navarro, British-Irish national Jennifer Flanigan and Kosovo-American Shpetim Ibishi and were snatched at gunpoint from their vehicle in Kabul last Thursday by armed men wearing military-style jackets.

All three had been contracted by the UN to oversee Afghanistan's first presidential elections Oct. 9.

The ultimatum came the UN released Afghanistan and to condemn the invasion by foreign forces, the immediate release of Afghans from foreign prisons, the immediate withdrawal of British and Kosovo forces and for the Philippines to condemn the invasion of Afghanistan and to announce it as illegal.

Same as Iraq

"If these countries don't agree to our demands, we will do the same thing as the mujahedeen are doing in Iraq," Mitaq told The Associated Press by satellite telephone. "We may kill them if we could not get a positive response," he said.

The Philippine government, however, has so far not issued an official reaction to the kidnappers' demands.

Filipino diplomats flew to Kabul over the weekend to help secure the release of Navarro.

Close cooperation

Philippine Ambassador to Pakistan Jorge Arrogancia and his staff "will work closely" with UN and Afghan authorities on the negotiation process, Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis said.

"There was an email if UN authorities had established contact with the kidnappers of Navarro, a 54-year old foreign service officer working for the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

The UN issued an emotional appeal Sunday for the release of the three and expressed concern about their health.

"We love them and like their friends and families are very close there, above their medical and physical condition, about their emotional well-being," UN spokesperson Manuel de Almeida e Silva said in a news briefing in Kabul.

"We call on those holding them not to harm them. All three enjoy a dedicated international and the best response is immediate release."

It was the first time the UN had made a direct public appeal to the hostage-takers.

The Philippine government was also seeking close coordination with the British and Indian governments, whose two nationals were also abducted, on how to deal with the incident, Seguis said.

Advice to Filipinos

About 1,500 Filipinos in Afghanistan, including 17 who are working for ISI agencies, had been advised to leave their countries following the abductions, Seguis said. Most of the others work as contractors in hotels and other businesses. "All Filipinos in Afghanistan are accounted for," Seguis added.

A government crisis committee has been set up to deal with the abductions and President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered foreign ministry officials to "leave all measures" to secure Navarro's safe release.

Thanks for prayers

A close relative of Navarro declined to comment on his abduction, but thanked Filipinos who have offered prayers for his safe release.

"There are a lot of people helping us through prayers, support and calls... neighbors, friends, people we don't know. I'm grateful for that," the relative said.

A group of diplomats in Manila is due appealed to the armed men to release the hostages unharmed, saying they were helping us to bring about peace in their country.

"We call upon the group or people who abducted Angelito Navarro and his companions to release them as soon as possible and not to bring harm to them," said Elmer Cato of the Association of Foreign Service Officers (Afsofo).

"The only intention of Angelito and his fellow UN workers in Afghanistan was to assist in bringing about peace, order and progress to the lives of our Afghan brothers and sisters," he added in a statement.

The Philippine mission to the UN has established a 24-hour link with the UN Security Coordination Office, which is overseeing efforts to seek the release of the three hostages.

Philippine Ambassador to the UN Lauro Baja has been attending meetings and briefings by UN security officials on the abductions, and has been relaying updates to the DFA's crisis management committee. With AFP reports

Appointment of military man as BCDA head draws flak

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The military backgrounds of the retired Armed Forces and the chairman of civilian leadership in the Bases Conversion Development Authority spoke against AFP Chief Of Staff Narciso Abaya as unpopular choice to head the BCDA.

"It should be one that a position has been reserved for someone who still has to take command

ability for the power company from heads at the AFP" from Senadora Rene Ramirez, private sector representative to the Regional Development Council of in Central Luzon, said of Abaya.

Ramirez was referring to the years of unexplained wealth against former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and his budget officer Lt. Col. George Rabusa.

Ex-Mayor's excitement last Friday President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the appointment as BCDA president and chief executive officer.

The BCDA, according to its website, is a government-owned and controlled corporation tasked with converting military base lands "into productive civilian economic uses consistent with the thrust to disperse business opportunities and economic activities throughout the country-side."

Ana Lacsina of the San Fernando Bicolano said Pramo Cielo questioned the increasing number of government appointees from the military.

"I don't think General Abaya should be in BCDA, even if he were qualified. People will say it's a reward, especially after General Garcia's scandal," said Lacsina, whose late father, ex-Councilor Jesus Lacsina, was a staunch supporter of the Aetas.

Ramirez said former BCDA president and CEO Rufo Colayco, whom Abaya replaced, should have been considered for his "focus" on the Global Gateways or the merger of the international airports (airports, seaport and highways) of Clark and Subic.

Subic Bay Josh Lapuz cited new perceived conflicts of interest that Abaya would have. The first is the 95-hectare leasing United States Military Assistance Group's property that retired and active generals have declared. The second is the 10,000-ha Bataan military reservation that had been "reserved" included in the scope of BCDA but actually belongs to farmers and Aetas living in the area.

Abaya is the first retired general to take the helm of the BCDA.

Before him, Antonio Bautista, Vicente Lim, Rodolfo Biazon and Rogelio Singson all served their retirement years as chair, president and chief executive officer.

Like Colayco, all are business executives or government technocrats.

The current trend has failed to mark Colayco for nonconcurrence in Abaya's appointment.

NEW NAPOLCOM EXEC President Macapagal-Arroyo swears in former Legazpi City Mayor Imelda Nieves as vice chair and chairman emeritus of the National Police Commission during her visit to Legazpi City on Albay. Also in photo is Vice President Noli de Castro. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Lawyers seek role in court-martial

By Philip C. Tubeza

TO SEE for itself if military justice was "tried or tested," the Integrated Bar of the Philippines has asked the defense department to allow it to observe the trial of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. on Tuesday, IBP national president Jose Anselmo Cadiz requested that the IBP be accorded "official observer status" in Garcia's court-martial.

"It is vital that care is conducted will ensure rebellion justice in the military is real or a myth. In the end, a fair, speedy, just and impartial disposition will help keep our people's faith in our military justice," Cadiz said.

He said the close monitoring of the court martial proceedings would help "ensure that there is neither whitewashing in favor of the accused nor railroading of the case against the accused."

Cadiz cited a policy of up to 10 lawyers, led by IBP executive vice president Jose Daniel de Mesa, would observe the trial and report to the IBP Board of Governors.

"The IBP then would make a pronouncement regarding public about the proceedings," he said.

Garcia will be tried for at least three violations of the articles of war. No. 96, or conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and No. 97, or neglect and disorder down the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

The military had earlier said that with Garcia's retirement on Nov. 16, the violations of Articles 96 and 97 would no longer apply because he would then be considered a civilian and outside military jurisdiction for military offenses, citing past jurisprudence, and they would try and convict Garcia for violation of Article 95 soon after his retirement.

Under the rules, the defense, Bacon, chief of staff has the sole power to constitute the court-martial and convene proceedings against any officer.

The office of the Judge Advocate General conducts a preliminary investigation of the officer's case prior to court-martial proceedings. The Judge Advocate has certain jurisdiction to the chief of staff.

RP to import ₱12-B worth of rice in '05

By Carlos Pablo

THE PHILIPPINES will import close to one million metric tons of rice in 2005 at an estimated value of ₱12.6 billion due to unsatisfactory domestic production of palay.

This was disclosed by Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LE Camarines Sur), chair of the House appropriations committee, following a hearing on last week on the proposed budget of the Department of Agriculture for next year.

"Swelling population and with less usage of rice lands have combined to make us partially dependent on rice imports," Andaya said.

He said that although very optimistic officials had forecast a record-high harvest of palay (unhusked rice) in 2005, total palay production will still not be able to meet domestic demand for the staple food.

By 2005, Filipino will be 1.76 kilo of rice a year. If one population grows by 1.6 million a year, this rice consumption will palay production by 2 million tons of rice a year," Andaya said.

Andaya said, however, that if local palay output surpasses expectations, rice imports will be limited to "50,000 metric tons at ₱15.5 per metric ton, the rice import bill will amount to only ₱1.45 billion.

But Andaya said that based on the DA's projections, rice imports may reach 960,000 metric tons.

The DA expects the palay harvest to reach 15.12 million metric tons in 2005, or the equivalent of 9.4 million metric tons of milled rice.

The proposed rice importation, however, is facing opposed by representatives of militant groups.

A NATION IN CRISIS

Why RP is a poor investment risk

AS DECEMBER is as cold here as it is in the Mecca Aquino International Airport, passengers often catch a glimpse of a gleaming new terminal building.

But first impressions are soon dispelled as passengers are offloaded to an older building that had seen better days.

Built by a group led by Germany's Hopton AG, the $650-million new international terminal had been scheduled for two years after President Macapagal-Arroyo cut the contract, citing irregularities in the document's terms negotiated by her deposed predecessor Joseph Estrada.

This is just one example of the difficulties foreign investors face when investing in the Philippines, especially in desperately needed infrastructure projects.

Poor economy, a Constitution that limits foreigners' stakes in existing businesses and shuts them out of entire industries, corruption at all levels, a biased court system, looming power cuts, an inflexible system to decide and an impending fiscal crisis all add up to a poor investment environment.

Rising debts

High government debts range to P4.29 trillion, or 77 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2003, the state budget for social services and infrastructure shrank to 2.6 percent of the gross national product (GNP) last year compared to 6.17 percent in 1997.

Officials predicted electricity demand will top available generating capacity sometime in 2006, but no new generating plants have been built for years.

The good news: would like to sell its debt-collection system soon but no one is showing much interest.

The shrinking social service and infrastructure budget is "seriously jeopardizing our capacity for growth that, in turn, produces our future revenues," said Finance Undersecretary Jose Isidro Camacho, chief Joey Salgado.

The budget crunch, however, is only one side of the issue, analysts say.

"The main issue is the incessant condemning foreign investors in the question of ownership of resources on the one hand, the lack of protection of investments, the fear of shifting goalposts and the problem of overall policy direction," according to Manila-based business consultant Michael Green.

Flip-flop policy

Green said the Philippines compared "badly" with other Asian countries, because "over the last three years there's certainly been a lot of flip-flopping."

He cited the airport terminal case, new audit transmittal arbitration, as the most famous example.

Loss-making National Power Corp., which drains billions of dollars from government coffers in the form of subsidies, is set to be privatized. But interest has flagged with Congress dragging its feet on passing a franchise that would allow the winning bidder to operate the nationwide transmission system.

Peter Wallace, another Manila-based business consultant, noted that power plants took up to five years to put up, with the government hesitant to take another three years to approve such projects.

But months before the May presidential election, Arroyo capped the income that the utility could charge customers by power sold to it by private generating companies.

"If you can't make a profit, how can you get anyone to invest?" Wallace asked.

How to raise toll fees

The controversial struggle on the mind of Jose de Jesus, a former public works minister and now dean/ emeritus of a Filipino-Australian-French consortium behind the $371-million rehabilitation of an 84-km toll road that is Manila's main link with industrial provinces to the south.

"Quite frankly, when you confront the rules—market risk, completion risk, political risk or regulatory risk—[but] there is the one that is the most difficult to predict," De Jesus said.

His company, Manila North Tollways Corp., defends a public backlash and regulatory cold feet when it comes time to raise toll fees by an estimated 100-600 percent in December. The group calculates fares toll levels would be necessary to allow it to recoup its investment in the project, which becomes government property in 2008. (See related story on Page A7)

Pilot western Manila North Tollways is not unique as toll fees must be challenged in the courts and then toll bars.

Supreme Court rulings this year and last forced power distributor Manila Electric Co. to reimburse customers hundreds of millions of pesos in charges that were previously approved by government regulators.

Investors, who want a fresh six-year term in elections in May, has created the private sector to help defray the cost of building new roads, ports and other structures through build-operate-transfer and other franchising agreements.

"What we're doing right now is looking at alternative ways of jumpstarting infrastructure investment," Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima told reporters last week.

"We just have to make sure we do not have unnecessary bottlenecks that delay the implementation of these projects." AFP

MANY an economic ploy is the only activity outside the seven-hectare Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1, the worst-visible symbol of what ails the Philippines. (AP Photo)

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 20 issue, in its box the Nation story on Page A2A—"Robredo-for-mayor rumors ruled out for now"—Cayetano, spelled the name of one of the two grandsons of the University of the Philippines Regent who were murdered in 2001. The correct spelling of the victim's name is Vilmar Tingal—not Tingbal.

• • •

IN THE OCT. 30 issue, in its box the Nation story on Page A2A—"Cavite vice governor runs 6 others for graft"—reported that Electoral Protest was the subject of an entry erasure issued by the Tone Marcos court. The proper word for the court-issued only Sonia Mallari.

• • •

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors, knowledge to Inquirer Circle, and address, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 888 Mabini, Pasay Street, Quezon City, Philippines, Email: [redacted] Fax: [redacted] Mail: [redacted] Please include your full name, address and telephone number.

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Bush or Kerry—who would make better ally?

By Heberson T. Alvarez

AMONG organized and left the overwhelming majority against supporting Iraq in the US is founding member of the Nihon Aguino Movement (NAM), which was named "the biggest and best organized opposition movement overseas" by the Wall Street Journal. NAM rejected the Balikatan on bilateral grounds of the American in the US. Alvarez has served as an activist, congressman, member(s) of opposition reforms and the environment and national resources, and presidential adviser on overseas Filipino communities.)

IN A few days, Americans will go to the polls to elect a President. The outcome and personality of American presidential elections these years may be for US presidents, but, in most occasions, affected the course of Philippine history. Today, the incumbent and his challenger have touched Filipinos in a personal way.

Fight against terrorism

President George W. Bush has declared unconditional praise and support for the Philippines as a worthy partner in the war on terrorism. For the country, especially after the Whitehouse's latest visit accelerated when President Macapagal-Arroyo was warmly welcomed, in a lavish US scene visit, as has been renewed only for other branch of state.

Bush's declaration of his security officials, Balikatan matured on coming now, it only for eight hours, to underscore his support in time of US$96-centa-day declaration of support for the US after 9/11 and, later, for sending a humanitarian contingent to Iraq.

Various gruesome and anti-corporate, but perhaps more also assigned to the Philippines. Of course, and understandably, the withdrawal of our contingent during the Angelo de la Cruz case was treated to elite positions.

Southeast Asian front

Several nations, during the recent presidential debates, President Bush mentioned that we, "quiet the Philippines" and "Indonesia, even before "the smoking gun" could be found. Six months of inactivity in the declaration of war in Iraq, Bush has also invited much controversy if not political suicide in his unequivocal stand against most call to mind his unconditional support for the anti-Israel late 2000. The incident leaves in which the Democrats rooted to the left), and his dismal against federal aid for abortion.

Fight against the dictatorship

Sen. John Kerry, on the other hand, was with us in a different kind of light for our democracy in the US political front during martial law.

Rediscovered in many Kerry was actively involved in our fight to regain our civil liberties. He supported the end to military and economic aid to the Marcos dictatorship.

At the summer of 1982, at the height and fallout of Government, a political by sufferers Kerry visited the office of Sen. Benigno Aquino who was in exile in the US. Before exile Ninoy Lamela and myself were meeting with Kerry at the time.

Kerry knocked on the door, introduced himself and requested a meeting with Ninoy. In Ninoy, Kerry and I spoke with him for an hour on the issue of stopping military and economic aid to the Marcos dictatorship.

Ninoy was impressed with Kerry's knowledge of Philippine politics. Kerry promised to be would relay our concerns on human rights violations in the Philippines to Sen. Ted Kennedy.

White House rally

When Ninoy was assassinated in 1983, Kerry denounced Marcos's murder. And in the days immediately before the EDSA People Power Revolution of February 1986, he joined hundreds of us in a massive rally in front of the White House, urging President Ronald Reagan to withdraw support for the dictatorship.

Together with Senators Richard Lugar, Orrin Cranston and Kennedy and Congressmen Steven Solarz, Senator Kerry's name was one of the most vocal in our democratic struggle as a people. He was among the US legislators who spoke at the rally and challenged the Marcos dictatorship at Lafayette Square.

Shared values, interest

These backing and encouragement were pivotal in rallying military and not the political vindication of US support for Marcos, which seemed democracy to the Philippines.

Kerry, in his speeches throughout the current presidential campaign, continues to cite his "concern for the restoration of democracy in the Philippines as part of his foreign policy achievements."

The ball is in our hands

It is clear both Bush and Kerry had touched so deeply and State shrouded competition but almost become our own. But in the end, our relationship with the US and whoever the next great deal will be would be meaningful and enduring if it is rooted on shared values and common interests.

The support of Kerry, Lugar, Kennedy, Solarz to restore Philippine democracy is a shared value for the rights and dignity of man. And for that matter, our own common struggle against terrorism is a statement of shared values with the American people and their leadership.

Kerry, in his relationship with a powerful partner, we must painstakingly search for the common purpose and shared values that define our national interest.

WHERE'S WE STAND. Sen. John Kerry joined the author (left) and hundreds of Filipinos at an anti-Marcos rally across from the White House in 1986. After Marcos was driven from power, Alvarez went on to serve the Philippine government in various capacities, while Kerry remained under a presidential mandate from the American people.

Supreme Court Doctrines

CIVIL LAW (AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP)—Special powers of attorney necessary to sale of real property by agents—There is no documentary evidence on record that the respondents-executors specifically authorized respondent Fernandez to sell their properties to anybody, including the petitioners. Article 1878 of the New Civil Code provides that a special power of attorney is necessary to enter into any contract by which the ownership of an immovable is transmitted or acquired or even any act or for a valuable consideration; encumbrance or convey real rights over immovable property; in fine any other act of strict dominion. Any sale of real property by one purporting to be the agent of the registered owner without any authority therefor is void(a) from the said owner is null and void(b) from the beginning; (c) such sale vests no property rights in the purchaser; (d) the fact or extent of his authority. In this case, the only evidence adduced by the petitioners to prove that respondent Fernandez was authorized by the respondents-executors is the testimony of petitioner Antonio Limchoc that respondent Fernandez openly represented herself to be the agent, attorney-in-fact of the respondents, and that she promised to present to the petitioners-in December 9, 1996 a written authority to sell the properties. The settled rule is that persons dealing with an agent must investigate the extent of the agent's authority or they would hold the principal liable, or so-called as not only the fact of agency but also the nature and extent of authority, and in case either is unknown, a party dealing with an agent does so at his peril. Burden of proof in respondent Fernandez' apparent authority. There is no evidence on record that the respondents-owners entitled all the attorney of respondent Fernandez to mortgage with her dealings with the petitioners. As such, mortgage is not binding on the respondents as owners of the subject properties. (Francisco Limited, 1 Creative College, St., Second Division, Limchoc vs. Fernandez, G.R. No. 146138, April 14, 2004.)

RTR, T. Tito

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SPORTS
E-mail at _sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres

JET Bayron celebrates victory in this file photo. A final-round 77 stopped him in second in Indochina play.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Bayron blows RP bid for HK crown sweep

Filipinos bag 5 medals; Manotoc ends up 3rd

HONG KONG—Overnight leader Jay Bayron of the Philippines limped home with a fat six-over 77 as Taiwan's Chan Shih-chang rallied to win the individual crown in the Hong Kong Open Amateur Golf Championships with a closing 66 at the Old course in Fanling yesterday.

The Philippines' bid to sweep the titles in the event went up in smoke when the former caddies' champion floundered in the face of an unrelenting charge by Chan, who won the crown by eight strokes with a 277 total.

"I couldn't hit it straight," Bayron said in Filipino, citing his sudden loss of form.

He had earlier rounds of 71, 69 and 68 that put him three strokes ahead of Shih before the start of the final round.

While Bayron was dropping shots, Chan was making birdies—five—en route to a four-under 66.

The 26-year-old Bayron had nines of 36-41 on his final his rhythm, touch and confidence. He topped on three bogeys and a double bogey costing holes.

The Philippines had won the team championship Saturday and National Golf Association of the Philippines secretary general Lutero Fernandez planned to investigating a huge hushup celebration.

Efrain Vinluan and Jun Bersa joined Bayron as the podium in accepting the team championship last won by the Philippines in 1992 when a team featured by Francis Gonzon, Boy Dayrosan and Tony Lascuña.

Tommy Manotoc, the third player in the championship flight who trod all four shots behind Bayron, after a 74 and settled for third spot with a 284.

double-four the team events, the three-man score of the national team, whose nine hole was backed by Bersa and the Philippine Sports Commission, also brought home medals.

Bayron settled for the individual silver and Vinluan won a medal for placing 10th in the individual championship, behind another Taiwanese, Chen Ye-ming.

Bersa won a medal for his day-best 68 to cop second.

JR Tayabas finished eighth with a 286 after a 75 while Matthew Manotoc closed out with a 79 for a 301.

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ENGINEERED SYSTEMS
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Juvic steady but Pinoys still way off

JUVIC Pagunsan shines under with nines of 36-34.

THE PHILIPPINES got another two-under 70 from Juvic Pagunsan yesterday and climbed to a share of 22nd place after 54 holes of the World Amateur Golf Team championships in Puerto Rico.

Pagunsan played to perfect nines of 36-34 at the rougher Rees course of the Rio Mar complex in Rio Grande to continue the 79-of-forensic Masakayi as the Filipinos returned a modest even par 144 for the day.

The muscle duel man, Michael Bibat, continued to struggle however. Despite the ideal conditions, the reigning Singapore amateur champ could do no better than a three-over par 75.

The Philippines is in a three-way tie with France and Korea at three over 426—may all be target of repeating a third place finish achieved twice before, in Malaysia in 2000 and in Hong Kong in 1984.

The United States got a solid 67 from Spencer Levin to pad its lead to nine strokes over Spain with 36 holes left in the biennial event for the Eisenhower trophy.

Levin had a ball on the 11th hole when his second shot got lodged in a palm tree but came back strong with birdies on three of his last four holes.

With Ryan Moore shooting a level 72, the Americans totaled 559 for the day and a 54-hole aggregate of 407 total, 23 under par.

Spain's 436 total was a mere shot ahead of Sweden, which wrested solo third.

Canada made the day's biggest move, shooting eight under for the round to share fourth with Switzerland and Italy at 422.

Malaysia is the last placed Asian country at eighth after getting an other 69 from Leaderboard Academy hotshot Bin Liang and a similar 69 from Abdul Sahrir.

The Malaysians, who threw away a 77 by Siti Chandrah, have an eight-under 424 aggregate, tied with powerhouse England.

Japan rose to a tie for 12th, while Thailand, which won the Doha Cup in runaway fashion over Malaysia, also struggled at 27th place, two strokes behind the Philippines at five over. Mooney F. Castillo

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Military says drugs good …

By Cynthia Balana

medicines at the Fort Bonifacio General Hospital were still effective but could still be used on patients even if they had expired six months ago.

He stated the statement to the wake of allegations that drugs that had lapsed their expiry periods were being prescribed for soldiers wounded in Jolo.

Quoting the pharmaceutical company that he said had donated the drugs, Pascual said some of the medicines in the military stockpile would still be administered even if they had expired on January.

They had not yet reported when the Fort Bonifacio hospital received them as a donation, he said.

"I personally worked with the company and I was told that the medicines were still good six months after they expired," Pascual told the inquirer in a phone interview. "In the first place, our doctors would not prescribe them if they would harm our soldiers."

News that expired drugs were being used at the Army hospital drew incredulous reactions from Jesuits and politicians.

The Bureau of food and Drugs said yesterday it would send inspectors to military hospitals in Metro Manila to check if they were disposing potentially harmful expired drugs as patients.

Against the law

BFAD Executive Director Leticia Gutierrez said she was surprised by the news that the Army hospital was administering expired medicines to wounded soldiers.

"They are not supposed to do that because that is against the law. We will send inspectors to check on this," Gutierrez told the inquirer.

Pascual declined to name the pharmaceutical company which donated the drugs, explaining only that drug firms usually invited seven to the military medicines testing experts.

"They do this because they don't want their stocks to just expire and be wasted," he said.

In explaining the alleged lapsed expired medicines, Pascual apparently hoped to quell fears among soldiers seeking treatment at Fort Bonifacio, the Army's main hospital.

Pascual also clarified that the upgraded drugs were not the main issue in the relief of Col. Wilfredo Su, the hospital's commanding general.

More serious case

The bigger issue, he said, was Su's alleged misappropriation of medicals from the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. and the use of bogus receipts for medical supplies.

"This is the more serious allegation and we should withhold judgment until the result of the official investigation is available," he said. "The case is now with the Army's Efficiency and Separation Board.

If found guilty, the hospital administration could be disbarred from receiving medicines receiving tax benefits.

Until the board decides on Su's case, Pascual asked the public—especially critics of the anti-lead-based military—to go easy on the military officers.

Call for fairness

"We should also be fair," he said. "A person is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt. It's a pity for Colonel Su if he gets cleared in the end but only after he and his family had already been disgraced."

The fact that the military leadership had ordered Su to retire in June 1 and placed him on "floating status" should show the AFP's resolve to condemn the allegations, pascual saying officials and not only members, Pascual said.

He said the AFP was also monitoring other military hospitals to check if any of their more talented drug medicines not available for procurement.

Woman caller

Pascual said the issue of expired medicines came only after a woman believed to be the relative of a retired general phoned a radio station and complained.

He said the soldiers were checking if the allegations were true and to comply of the woman's "personal grudge" against Su or against other hospital officials.

Gutierrez said that while the BFAD monitored drugstores and some hospitals (authority if it had not granted any requests of manufacturers to military hospitals.

Nurse's admission

A nurse from the army Hospital said in a radio interview that she and her colleagues had been instructed to administer expired injectable antibiotics to wounded soldiers and post-surgery patients.

"They're not supposed to dispense expired drugs," Gutierrez said. "When the drugs are expired, you are not supposed to take it anymore because once the brand degrades and it will not be cheap what it's supposed to be doing. That's why we have to determine expiration period."

In the case of antibiotics, she said dispensing expired drugs was useless and could give the patients a false sense of security because the drugs were not active anymore.

Dangers of expired drugs

In word sheet, taking expired medicines can harm some ingredients, such as nitrogen-containing compounds, in the body. Depending on the ingredients, this could be poisonous to humans, Gutierrez said.

"The effect depends on the drugs and its contents, but what's important is even the concentration (of the drugs) will be reduced, so, they will not be effective," she said.

Antibiotics especially must have a certain strength that the body should receive. Expired antibiotics can deteriorate (the body) and create some kind of resistance when the patient takes it the same thing," she added.

The BFAD conducts market monitoring of hospitals and drugstores, but Gutierrez admitted that the agency could not check all the pharmacies because of its limited manpower. There are 40 makers are listed 85,000.

IN THE KNOW

Are expired drugs dangerous?

THE BUREAU of Food and Drugs defines the expiry date as a medicine or the date after which the drug "is not reasonably certain to maintain its claimed safety, efficacy and quality in potency or other which are accommodations and, therefore, is not to be prescribed."

In a 2000 advisory, the BFAD said there were no guarantee that expired drugs could still be safe and effective, badging since it called "a misguided notion" that drugs are effective for medicine-sales section of drugstores to be sent to expiration date.

Some studied have suggested, however, that some drugs retain their potency after the expiry date.

In one thing to one 40 study, some drugs stored under certain conditions remain effective for some years after the expiry date.

The potency-related hazards on some conditions, such as storage conditions, accordingly the study

Top killers …

By Cynthia Balana

knowing what is now that killed them—simply because they could not cause their could not afford the cost of examination and treatment in a hospital.

Morbidity list

Statistics from the list of what ails most Filipinos hospital records also show. What is more alarming is that by the time sick person is brought to government hospitals, the disease-related condition is beyond control.

The Department of Health estimates that one out of every 1,000 Filipinos suffer from cancers. Figures show that lung cancer is the deadliest form of cancer for both males and females with 9,711 deaths reported out of 17,123 new cases.

Breast cancer ranks second with 5,436 new cases, followed by liver cancer with 5,260 new cases.

The hospitals of Health (DoH) and its subsidiaries and bureaus gave these grim figures. Every year, out of 71,326 Filipinos diagnosed with cancer, more than half (37,623) would die of it.

The excess 100 of them would die daily or four would die every hour.

These alarming figures indicate that not only cancers pernicious methods

think be incidental among Filipinos, but most environmental factors that could be deemed more organic.

More and more health care professionals, for the most part, are pointing a paradigm shift through an integrative medical approach and not especially seeking alternative ways to get to the root cause of diseases before they kill.

They are progressively addressing environmental factors where pharmaceutical medicines had not tried before.

But only are Filipinos eating food that is processed, canned, medicated, chemically-laced, radiated, genetically modified and denaturized for economic expediency. They are also breathing air that is more and more polluted using standards.

Most drinking water contains chemicals and excessive microbial.

The seafood, meat and poultry we consume higher in the chemicals and pesticides that have accumulated in the food chain.

Every day are in basic toxic pesticides (pesticides, petrol, household cleansers, etc.) that just a very can David because the body cannot easily break down these substances.

At the same time, etiologic of diseases in the environment are occurring faster than the human organism can adapt to. As the earth becomes more polluted, so does the body (mother-earth) becomes a lot more than "traps" these pollutants.

Death can come anyone at any age. It does way and circumstance from the one brothers or from the elements that may through aren't sins, like the goddesses under a boy or a girl bashes in.

Every Filipino's specially ought as well spot death to does possessing.

Andrea queen hematologic medicines authority Dr. Marshall Mandell telling a cancer stricken patient that "God did not like you." Dr. Mandell bilocated: "The current level of chemicals in the food and water supply and the indoor and outdoor environment has lowered our threshold of resistance to disease and has affected our body's metabolism, causing symptoms of hypertension, deficiencies, and hormonal imbalances."

It is bad enough that we have the risk of dying the moment that of being born. Worse, people still have not done enough about the quality of life in between.

The health-bad-hinged populations, threatened in having no control over their environment and the inequities of institutions, from food to access to health care, have their own hands by clapping empowering information and training to the bad habits that have control of—intake of food, oxygen and even thoughts.

While advances in high-tech medicine in this age of information can fight off acute infection, repair the wounds of violence and replace a broken down body part, the majority of Filipinos are chronic diseases, where natural nutrition and preventative care comes cure-time.

Despite the tradition, some doctor, organic living food nutrition as their No. 1 prescription. Most simply—because they are supported by the pharmaceutical drug investment that provides quick relief to suffering patients.

The practice of medicine today makes it difficult for doctors to attend to a long flow of patients and coach each one on something the patient should be learned from a recent health education program.

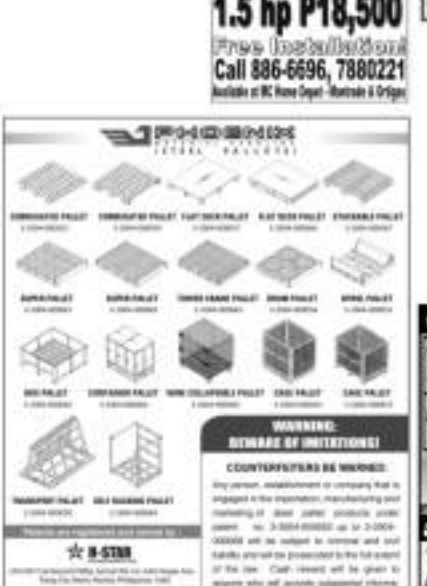
Dr. Bonnie Bartlett, a El Cerrito-area endocrinologist who received home and established the Center for Healing in Integrative Medicine in Makati and Quezon City, says that traditional modes of pharmaceutical and surgical therapy don't work well against chronic illnesses, like cancer or heart disease.

Using the diagnostic methods of traditional Chinese medicine with a Boston technology device that can measure the body's vibratory, scientists wants against the aging incidence of heavy metal and chemical poisoning. To consider the, the procedure unambiguously identifies toxins as the many point to healing.

Detoxification is what was self others have been completing mainstream practitioners today—from Toronto Cliff to Davao City and from the Philippine General Hospital to Quezon City, where terminal patients go to when "all else fails," to the tiny Dapecenter Health Center of doctor in Lipa City in Batangas, which tries to approximate the ideal environment needed to activate the natural state of health.

The operating of spas, fitness gyms and health resorts is an indication of how much people have come to optimize their genes in the country.

Integrative medical practitioners may differ in their healing approaches but they are all in the same message. You need not die before your time.



Raise toll slowly, traders ask

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Business groups here have urged the Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC) to implement the toll-fee increase in Nov. 2005 instead of this month.

Fernando Ramos, executive vice president of the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PhanCham), said this although businessmen in the province accepted the need for MNTC to raise toll rates to recoup its investment, it must be considerate of the riding public.

"That was the first condition Pampanga businessmen asked of the MNTC. They also want toll charges for regular users of the expressway," Ramos said.

The tollfee hiking involves Mabalacat-Lubao (Bataan-Hi), however said the toll fee hike was "absolutely unfair" to the public.

Ronnie Pelayo, Bayan-GL chair, said the toll rate increase would force public transport groups using the NLEX to raise their fares. He said truck businesses may increase the overhead of the "domino effect" of the toll rate hike.

Palatino said Bayan-GL will ask Congress to investigate the MNTC toll rate hike. He said the group will also stage more actions against the new toll rates of P2.40 per km for small vehicles, P6.32 per km for light trucks-buses, and P7.47 per km for heavy trucks and vehicles.

The toll fee for the NLEX was only 24 centavos per km for small vehicles until last July 25 when the Philippine National Construction Corp., which operates the expressway, adjusted the rate to 52 centavos per km.

Vehicles now entering small tollgates would pay a one-way toll fee of just one P200 for the entire 84-km stretch of the NLEX, known with higher tolls would have to shell out some P525, and heavy trucks some P627. Jun Matig, PIA Central Luzon Desk

6 NPA rebels killed in Aurora

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Philippine Army reported killing six New People's Army rebels in a clash in the municipality of Dipaculao town in Aurora on Sunday.

Col. Ruben Rafael, 702nd Infantry Brigade commander, said about 20 security guards of the government civilian ambushed after 5 a.m. on Sunday, recovered the bodies of their colleagues.

Rafael said the fifth squad that ambush engaged in a gunfight in Sitio Sanglungan-Barangay Dahildahilan, Dipaculao, when the rebels and their security escorted over 24 in Sitio Amtic-Barangay Diagyan-Dipaculao-Dilasag town.

Fifty reserve in Aurora could lose

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibanez

Japanese hostage in Iraq beheaded

TOKYO—Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi vowed Sunday that Japanese troops would continue their domestically unpopular mission in Iraq after Islamic militants demanding a pullout killed a 24-year-old Japanese tourist.

A hood and a decapitated body with bound hands and feet were found wrapped in a US flag Saturday behind a hospital on Baghdad's Kufa Street, a stronghold of Iraq's most wanted man Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi.

Fingerprint samples were sent to Tokyo and matched those of Shosei Koda, a naive traveller who took a public bus to Baghdad and was an easy target for kidnappers.

"It is our utmost regret that Mr. Shosei Koda fell victim to terrorism although the Japanese government made every possible effort to rescue the hostage," Koizumi said. "I offer my sincere condolences to his family."

Koda is the fifth Japanese to die in Iraq since the US-led war in Iraq, of which Koizumi was a vocal supporter. Two diplomats and two journalists were killed in gun attacks.

"Our country is cooperating with the international community to still carry out humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance by the Self-Defense Forces for the sake of the people of Iraq and maintain continuity in Japan's against terrorism," Koizumi said.

The military, known as the Self-Defense Forces as Japan's constitution rejects the use of force, is on its first deployment since World War II to an area of active fighting, although it is on a non-combat, reconstruction mission.

An Asahi Shimbun poll, published a day before Koda's kidnapping was announced by an Islamist website, found that 56 percent of Japanese opposed keeping troops in Iraq after their mission expires on Dec. 14.

The opposition pledged after Koda's killing to fight against any extension of the mission.

"If the Self-Defense Forces had not been dispatched, this never would have happened," said main opposition leader Katsuya Okada of the Democratic Party of Japan. "I want to strongly request a withdrawal."

Mizuho Fukushima, leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party, criticised Koizumi for immediately rejecting the kidnappers' demands to withdraw troops, saying the prime minister "did not even allow for negotiations" on Koda's release.

After days of mediation in April Japan was able to secure the release of three Japanese aid workers and two journalists detained in Iraq. The hostages, on returning to Japan, apologised for putting the mission on edge.

Similarly, the parents of Koda Sunday released a statement of apology "for causing anxiety to the many people who supported us."

"We pray for peace for the Iraqi people as soon as possible," the statement said.

Koda reportedly went to Baghdad out of curiosity and was refused entry at border before that feared the security risks of a foreign tourist, finding to get on a train line to Jordan, he hopped in to a waiting car offered by young men who spoke English.

The next time Koda was seen was at the last of three armed, masked men under a banner of Zarqawi, a Jordanian born militant who has pledged allegiance to Osama bin Laden.

In a Tokyo and nationwide ban Koda calmly told Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on a video Sunday that if he did not withdraw Japan's troops within 48 hours "they will chop off my head."

Majid Hadi, a Baghdad police officer on the patrol that made the grisly discovery of Koda's remains, said the body was decapitated and shot four bullet wounds.

Japan planned to repatriate the body through Kuwait, said the state Yasuo Fukuda, who had been in Tokyo to meet Koizumi.

Koda's family in Fukuoka, southwest Japan, said they were "shocked and saddened" by the hostage crisis still in the Jordanian capital Amman.

Around 500 Japanese troops are based in the southern Iraqi city of Samawa. AFP

KODA

ZOHRA Rawia, wife of kidnapped Sri Lankan truck driver, prays at Hindu temple in Colombo, Sri Lanka Oct. 31. Iraqi militants have kidnapped two truck drivers from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh who worked with US forces in Iraq. Al Jazeera television reported on Oct. 28. The network showed a video tape from the Islamic Army in Iraq showing the two men, employed by a Kuwaiti company, whose the group said had been captured and before driving into a US military base. AFP

The tragic end of a Japanese backpacker

TOKYO—The kidnapping in Iraq of 24-year-old Japanese traveler Shosei Koda has come to a bloody end, with a beheaded body in Baghdad identified on Sunday as his. Here are the main facts in the crisis:

Oct. 23: Shosei Koda arrives in Baghdad on a bus from Amman with 100 dollars in his pocket and a desire to see Iraq's troubles with his own eyes.

Oct. 31: After failing to find an affordable hotel or get out on a return bus, Koda puts into the meeting car of two young men who speak to him in English, according to Japanese press reports citing bus workers.

Oct. 31: The Islamic militant group of Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi shows Koda seated at the feet of three armed, masked men. Koda says in Japanese that he will be beheaded if Tokyo does not withdraw its troops from Iraq within 48 hours.

2nd hour after the militants' video was released on the internet, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi rejects the demand to pull out troops.

Oct. 26: Senior Vice Foreign Minister Hitoshi Tanigawa arrives in Amman to set up a task force. Japan says it has sought the cooperation of 20 countries including the United States, Iraq and Pakistan.

Oct. 29: The deadline set by the militants is behind Koda expires with no news on his fate.

The mother and brother of Koda, whose father is ill, make emotional appeals on the Arabic-language Arabia television, saying the young man went to Iraq to help and had no political motives.

A media report says the body of an Asian-looking man was found near the northern Iraqi city of Tikrit. Forensic experts determine it was not Koda but an Iraqi truck driver.

Oct. 30: Japanese foreign ministry spokesperson Hatsuhisa Takashima announces a body resembling Koda was found in the desert north of Baghdad.

US forces fly the body to Kuwait, where it is then released for Japanese experts to be sure Koda lost a most signed around 10 wearing Middle Eastern clothing.

Oct. 31: Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura confirms a head and body found in Baghdad are the remains of Koda.

Koizumi says Japan will keep its troops in Iraq despite the killing of the hostage. AFP

9 GIs killed in bloodiest attack on American forces in 7 months

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Nine US marines were killed on Saturday in the bloodiest attack on American forces in Iraq in almost seven months as troops prepared for a major assault to capture the rebel towns of Ramadi and Fallujah.

Seven people were also killed by a car bomb outside the Al Sarafiya interrogation office in Baghdad, the Interim Ministry said, in the worst attack on the media since the war started in March last year.

Violence flared across Iraq ahead of the offensive, expected any day, and US planes and artillery pounded Fallujah in the country's Sunni Muslim heartland.

Seven Iraqis died in clashes with US troops in an area dubbed the triangle of death south-west of the capital.

The US military said the marines were killed in the restive western province of Anbar, which includes Fallujah and Ramadi, but gave no details. Nine marines were also wounded.

Witnesses said earlier they had seen three US vehicles burning on a road east of Fallujah, in the same province. It was not clear if that was where the marine casualties occurred.

The deaths bring to 858 the number of US troops killed in combat. The total number of US troop deaths, including accidents and other causes, is now almost 1,320.

US marines commanders said on Friday they were preparing for a major assault on Fallujah and Ramadi.

The aim is to smash guerrillas and foreign militants led by al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi to enable Iraq's interim government to hold national elections in January. Reuters

PACQUIAO: 3 Filipinos sporting promoter

Pacquiao not taking Thai fighter lightly

By Edwin L. Lagumbay
Contributor

MEGAING pound-for-pound featherweight king Manny Pacquiao has logged two rough Muaythai fighters in sparring when he officially kicks off his rigid preparation on Wednesday, Nov. 3, for his upcoming showdown with Thai banger Medsak Or Boitoy.

Source enders Christopher Lidasky and featherweight Aaref Rosco will be the regular sparring rivals of Pacquiao when he seriously plunges into training for the Dec. 11 bout that will serve as his final grind before a planned world title rematch with Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez on Feb. 26.

The five-spectator will be apartment in General Santos City, where Pacquiao will be based while training in the gym of businessman Rey Bolinquit.

Pacquiao, who will be getting $3,000,000 for this 10-round non-title event, has been doing light workouts for months now, and should be ready to step up the training regimen any time.

Reports said American promoter Michael Muhammad and Pacquiao's business manager Bud Brantes are set to meet also Wednesday with businessman International representative.

Any agreement would be announced Friday.

Among those slated to see action in the undercard is Pacquiao's younger brother Bobby, who is set to confront Indonesian RP mare featherweight title against Ysalo-based Bernie Delledo.

Also in the card is Celimene phenom Z. "The Terrible" Gomez, as well as a possible RP championship clash between former rider Joel Bacero against Nodo Olibario.

Paterno cited for successive game-winners

By Jasmine N. Payo

BASKET shows a playoff hit run game-winning baskets in a row.

for keynote interview of his Philippines Fight pulled off the memorable feat and was honored by the PBL Press Corps as the first Player of the Week of the young PBL Open season.

The clutch shooting of the 6-foot-4 forward also lifted league scoring race for Philippines Hapee to the top spot with defending champion Magnolia PBL, both with 2-0 records.

"My only focus is to help the team for one point this conference. I didn't expect that I'll win it for me, thanks," said Paterno, who formed PBL Alaska Unbeatable Player Award Santos and Lyon Cuili of Magnolia PBL) for the weekly citation.

The 23-year-old Paterno did one-to-one rescue, except flight coach Lawrence Chongson.

"When we drafted him, I was already expecting big things from him because he's one very talented player with and, to-skills," noted Chongson.

Dramatic victory

Paterno stood on a driving layup in the last 22.8 seconds to upset the favored Adidas Adidas Aussies, 81-80, as the Flight's opening game last Sunday Ko Gunbird with a game-high 28 points.

For that time, the Philippines clinched another dramatic victory. And again, it was the San Beda standout who nailed a jumper with only 9.8 seconds remaining that repulsed Cosmic Goose Textiles, 71-70.

"Today we have college stars so every PBA's believe and I, We have a big heart," said Chongson.

Dispersal pick

Paterno, who suited up for the six-headed Bankers USE in the last conference, was picked eight overall in the dispersal draft.

He was All Philippines' second pick, after University of the East standout EJ Cendaña. The young super from Iligan City, however, was traded into the lead-making rookie after Cendaña made it to the second team.

In his recently concluded NCAA men's basketball tournament, Paterno also was instrumental in leading the San Beda Lions to their first Final Four appearance in seven years.

"I can say that he has come of age and I expect him to have tougher challenges ahead," said Chongson.

Chongson realizes that the road will be rough up ahead for the Flight, what with a lot of quality teams ready to reclaim their turf's offalos.

But if the Philippines can keep every opponent close to the end, the hosts down they have someone to call when they need a big shot in the closing seconds.

[BEDA] Paterno (right) explores his take-charge role for San Beda in the NCAA with back-to-back game-winning baskets for Air Philippines in the PBL Open

RP youth chess squad off to Greece tomorrow

MANDAUE ISLAND, Cebu—Jeremiah Shelley Jo heads a crack squad of 10 young chess players set to board a plane tomorrow to participate in the RP-DOH Youth Chess championships slated Nov. 5-14 at the Costa Malta in Heraklion, Greek resistance.

The team will play in five categories—under-10, under-12, under-14, under-16 and under-18—against the toughest young world-pushers in the world at the Greek mainland's easternmost city.

The other members of the RP squad are Princess Bhel Aquino, Jesse Alfonso Dato, Julian Joseph and Gonchoo de Ramos, Charlene Gwendoy Camacho, Christy Lionel Bertulfo, Kimberly Ann Camaman, Jayeshya Pamela and Lee Gayle Jr.

It was the first time that the Philippine Chess Federation entering seven panels. Along the way to host DF Chile Games and personnel has been joining the national team that competed in the recent Chess Olympiad in Spain.

"The young players were really inspired by the performance of the team that joined the Olympiad in Mallorca, Spain, and I believe they will also put together a good performance," National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) director Wilfredo Mario could be hopeful in yesterday.

The RP Team is spain led by IM Rogene Torre, flanked on supervisor Ulfredo.

"We are really thankful to DICP president Ito Ting Sik, Phil Sentimental Mike Arroyo and the NG Foundation and PSC chair Eric Buhain for their support to the campaign," added Mario, who also thanked the RP delegation to the Asian youth qb in Vietnam last August that brought home five gold, seven silver and seven bronze medals.

The country's best finish in the annual event was in 2002 when it placed fifth overall with IM Jayson Gonzales finishing third in the individual race. Marie Bernardo

Monuments and memories

BARE EYE

Alexander Fernandez

WE GO our inside today, and just to remember, but because we must never forget.

There are monuments, memories that the harshest of seasons cannot erase.

Indeed lightning conflicts, bringing thousands, as we're lectured to do on this special day, do not only honor the departed, but also make us feel both grateful and good.

We all have a duty to the dead, remember it's past, no matter how far they have traveled from the world's earthen womb.

But, then, do these kind souls have any need for these munchies trappings?

* * *

With the flowers, of course, go our prayers.

But what could be better than following a forever wish?

A favorite theme of the deceased mentioned in prayer left by Bataan dela Cruz, my favorite boyhood idol, who died in America at the ripe old age 104, Monday passed away in 1977.

The late, lamented Lt. Bataan earned bronze in Savannah marble, war short, simple, sincere.

I cannot faithfully recite it here, but at least one is paraphrase it as a best bet.

"Please forget all my faults/ Leave me my memories/ If you must remember me/ Do it with a kind deed/ And I shall live forever."

* * *

Many of the good things that happen around us do come in remembrance, in honor of those who are dead.

We do try to help whoever we're allowed to in honor of our dear departed fallen.

Yes, all the possible good deeds in honor of the Lord and beloved relatives who have passed away.

It's not greatly wrong to believe that we're all a continuation of their deeds and unfulfilled good wishes.

* * *

Help feed the hungry, assist the sick and needy.

Teach a young child, offer research, accompanion.

That assumption on doing a kind deed could be found in an obscure corner of the Muntinlupa Municipal Cemetery where my father has also been buried.

Not for the lone it is a the grave of former Senator President Ninoy Benigno Aquino Jr.

The epitaph of the great son of Muntinlupa, one of poor, lights students, reads: "He served God's purpose in his own time."

Of course, we can't all hope to be a Napoleon Gonzales.

* * *

But the apt message here is, if you can't do a kind deed, no said keep calm.

Make sure you don't become a nuisance to others.

Make sure you are in your opposite and don't end up doing a Major Gen. Carlos Garcia.

Was the overweight military official, by the way, trying to emulate and honor President Diosdado Macapagal with his dark shade?

Was Garcia also trying to send a message to you?

In speech, what about the great foreign capers, the so-called PILSummits, who have cheated on their citizenships in order to land in the dollars in the PBA?

Wasn't their act of renouncing their accustom in order to cheat Filipino basketball devotees equal to belittling Lim manned for the devil?

Why have they forgotten to do good?

This is a day for light and prayers, but that's the kindest question that could be addressed to the circumstances.

Pagulayan stakes Tokyo title Thursday

ALEX Pagulayan opens his title retention bid in the Tokyo Grand Open on Thursday in Japan.

Pagulayan, the reigning World Pool League champ, is seeded in the finals along with 2002 winner Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Efren "Bata" Reyes.

Eleven other Filipinos—Monchito Viloria Open champ Antonio Gabica, Antonio Lining, Medwin Manalo, Ronnel Gallego, Dennis Gevalle, Lee Van Corteza, Ronnie Alcano, Ismael Sosa, Willy Apacible, Ed Mikkie and Dante Dick Rosa—are vying in the tournament but need to handle the quality round which starts today.

Warren Kiamco was knocked down off of the list rejoice after his passport was stolen from his home Saturday. Marlon Bernardino, contributor

Proposals, apocalypse and a little rain on Boston's parade

RED SOX World Series MVP Manny Ramirez rubs one in on the New York Yankees and their star, Derek Jeter. AP/USA

BOSTON—Confetti rained down and the "Hallelujah Chorus" resounded through Boston's streets Sunday due to grateful fans embraced the World Series champion Boston Red Sox during a jubilant parade that even wore effect on the Charles River.

An estimated 3.2 million people packed the 7-mile (11-kilometer) parade route on a rare autumn day with spring cast, standing in dense crowds, hanging from windows and cheering from rooftops.

Some held signs boasting words of thanks, marriage proposals and expressions of wonder at the team's achievement after 86 years of dashed hopes since its last championship in 1918. The Red Sox beat the St. Louis Cardinals in four straight games to win the World Series.

First sign

"All is forgiven," read one banner. "Now we just have to wait for Ted Kennedy to die," read another, and another and another and another. "Thank you."

"It started raining and it was cold and the people didn't even care," pitcher Derek Lowe said. "They're resilient a long time. You'll never see a parade like that with as many people, no matter what sport or what city."

The parade wound from Fenway Park, past Boston Common and City Hall and onto the Charles River, with Red Sox players riding 27 of the amphibious vehicles known since World War II as "ducks."

Businesses along the route rose to the occasion, with one wedding boutique putting a bright red "B" on each dress in its display window.

Bumpier

The team's first appearance in a World Series since 1986 came at the expense of the New York Yankees, Boston's archrivals whom the Red Sox beat in a historic comeback in the all, championship series, winning four straight after losing three...making the triumph that much sweeter.

"Every Red Sox fan from now on can walk in to Yankee stadium with their head high," said catcher Jason Varitek.

Throughout the parade, music blared from speakers on the road ordade, with selections including the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah," and "Dirty Water"—the Boston-themed Standells hit that is played after every victory at Fenway Park.

The players were joined by the outpouring of pent-up emotion from generations of fans. It even dwarfed the party-thrown this year for the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots.

"I couldn't believe how loud it was," backup catcher Doug Mirabelli said. "It's just something you never get tired of. I just wanted to keep going."

Arrests

Police reported that 11 people were arrested, 12 people were brought to the hospital without, tear injuries and 50 people received medical treatment in the street. Those arrested faced charges including disorderly conduct, drug possession, public drinking and assault.

Pitcher Pedro Martinez was hit in the face hood by a baseball thrown from the trunks of the Charles. An hooker stunned and put his hand to his forehead as the ball bounced down the street.

"I have a little headache, but I'm OK," said Martinez, who sat atop his host, draping himself with the Dominican flag like a cape.

Right fielder Trot Nixon said the Red Sox's victory was for those "who have lived and breathed with Red Sox baseball for years and years." Nixon said he heard heartfelt words from fans, like one who said his grandfather had died before seeing his beloved Sox win the big one.

"This is for all the little guys, from Maine to the West Coast," Nixon said. "All the fans are part of our family, the family of the Red Sox."

RICHEST RACE

Ghostzapper zaps Breeders Cup foes

JOCKEY Javier Castellano celebrates in the winner's circle aboard Ghostzapper. AP/USA

DALLAS, Texas—Ghostzapper won the $5 million Classic at Lone Star Park on Saturday, capping the field in the crowning event of the eight-race, $14-million Breeders' Cup extravaganza.

Trained by Bobby Frankel and ridden by Javier Castellano, the ten-time stakes winner had no problem with the 1 1/4-mile distance, romping to a three-length victory over Stroke (Arg).

"I had all the confidence in the world," Castellano said. "There was no question he wouldn't go wire-to-wire. He's that classy."

Last year's Classic winner, the Richard Mandella trained Pleasantly Perfect, was third while Jerry Bailey-aboard.

Pleasantly Perfect was trying to join Tiznow as the only two-time winners of North America's oldest race.

"The post position pretty much cost me," Bailey said.

Turns said he had enough trip," Mandella said. "It's disappointing to come off where we've been. It looked like all the speed was going to run out, but they took back and finished up."

Ghostzapper, a 4-year-old who has won all four of his races this year, raised his home with a three-length victory, pulling away from Stroke in May stakes by John Velazquez. It was Stroke's May first defeat in six races this year.

"The race worked out the way I thought it would," Velazquez said. "I was hoping right outside I wanted to be. I was head to head with Ghostzapper at the half-mile pole, and I felt that the best horse would win. Obviously he had a little more than I did."

"Ghostzapper is super horse," said Dale Romans, trainer of Stroke in May. "He may be the best horse we've seen in a long time. We picked a bad year to have a top horse for the Classic."

D. Wayne Lukas-trained Azeri, Azeri, the 2002 Horse of the Year who was taking on the boys, was fifth with Hall of Famer Pat Day in the saddle.

Belmont Stakes and Travers winner Birdstone was a disappointing seventh under Edgar Prado.

It also was another huge disappointment in the Classic for 2003 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Funny Cide, who was 10th in the 13-horse field. He finished ninth in a 10-horse field in last year's Classic.

The victory was worth $2.06 million for Hall of Fame trainer Frankel, who entered the day with just one victory in 16 career Breeders' Cup races.

GHOSTZAPPER leaves the field hitting door at the finish. AP

AMELIE Mauresmo shies as a return to Jelena Jankovic on the way to the finals. AP

Hewitt braces for Paris media blitz

PARIS—Lleyton Hewitt is braced to fend off questions over his personal life today, all the Tuesday he normally screams for his all-court game when the Australian returns to action at the Paris Masters this week.

Hewitt, a former world No. 1 and reigning a 2004 career tremendous, has his eights set on finishing the year as world No. 2, locked just 40 the shy amount of Roger Federer.

But the 23-year-old knows he faces a media storm as he plays his first Lleyton tournament since the publicized collapse of his relationship with Kim Clijsters.

Hewitt, beaten in the US Open final by Federer this year, has not commented on the breakup and will not be relishing an inquisition here.

Newspaper reports said Hewitt was "completely floored" when Clijsters told him their relationship was off indefinitely after they had planned a wedding in February.

Not surprisingly, the Aussie has limited pushes to communicate on his private and his absence of meeting American's Andy Roddick from the world No. 2 spot this week.

"I'm playing extremely well," said Hewitt whose titles this year have taken his career total to 23.

"Since the US Open last year, I haven't put too many feet wrong. Right through this whole year, it has taken a hell of a player to beat me week in and week out."

"The little niggles that linger were, I lost to Marcelo Rios and Nalbandian in Toronto Gaudio in the quarters of the French Open and he went on to win it.

"I'm back at No. 3 in the world now and get a chance to try and finish No. 2."

Meanwhile, in Vienna, World No. 2 Amelie Mauresmo exploited an injury to opponent Jelena Jankovic as she fought back to win, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, in the semifinals of the Linz Open on Saturday.

Mauresmo will meet Elena Bovina in the final on Sunday after the Russian came back to beat unexpected finalist Patty Schnyder, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6. AFP

Outdoor Quest: iRule still untouchable

ARIAS, Malaysia—For the third straight day, international squad Shyh proved unbeatable, riding Stage 3 of the 2004 Outdoor Quest here Saturday to pull in overall lead going into the most crucial test of the five-leg adventure race, Monday's 53-kilometre race to the torpedoing Mt. Kinabalu.

The 20-competing teams, newer from three straight days of battling the elements and against each other, took a much-needed break Monday, enabling them to recharge their batteries for the last two days of the event offering $40,000 to the winning outdoor of the total of $215,000.

Team Shyh's lone triumph, worth $5,000, picked up the squad's winning total to $12,500 but for Sillaud, the 41 year old member of the all-male squad, stressed they still have a tough go ahead.

"That (lone win) shows we are good, but does not mean we are already champions," said Sillaud, a Frenchman who had linked up with Germany's Marcel Wagener, Australia's Rita Clausen and New Zealand's Craig Stevens only a week before the grueling event.

Showing familiar in the breaking part of Stage 3, Shyh went in five hours, 42 minutes and four seconds, passing more space between it and second-running Nike ACG, Salomon-Thai going into the last 7.58 km of the race spread over the next two days.

Monday's race up Mt. Kinabalu which will see the competitors start halfway up the mountain and continue to the summit and go down through an 80 metre abseil to the top of Low's Gulley a 1,000-m deep chasm dividing the mountain.

For the second straight day Nike came close to taking stage honors, finishing in 5:42:25, just 25 is behind the winners after the race that included two shifts here, including pitching a combat dinner, run around a football pitch in Mukangkap Barn in the outskirts of Ranau.

Finland's TVR finished fifth Saturday in 5:59:46, but stayed in third overall at 13:23:22.

Defending champion Seagate finally looked a podium finish and climbed from ninth overall to fourth at 13:26:39 after finishing fifth for the day in 6:40:06.

Iran Petrol Japan finished 12th in 6:57:20 and stayed in 12th overall at 14:52:40 to become the best-placed Asian team. Franchise Malaysia finished 14th Saturday (6:54:35) and slipped from 11th to 13th overall (15:08:05).

MIKE AND BIKE Former NBA basketball star Michael Jordan watches the final qualifying round of the Valencia Grand Prix in Valencia, Spain. Japan's Makoto Tamada won the pole position ahead of fellow Team Camel Honda rider Max Biaggi of Italy.

Bin Laden warning fails to raise US terrorism alert

WASHINGTON—US officials decided Saturday not to raise the terrorism alert level in response to Osama bin Laden's threats against the United States in the final hours of the presidential campaign, after President George W. Bush held urgent talks with top national security aides.

"The president did direct those to make sure we were taking all actions that might be necessary," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said after Bush spoke with his homeland security team from Washington where he campaigned ahead of Tuesday's presidential vote.

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice was with Bush who held a secure videoconference link with CIA Director Porter Goss, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, Attorney General John Ashcroft, FBI chief Robert Mueller and Homeland Security adviser Frank Townsend, said McClellan.

The US administration has been saying for several months that it is worried about the possibility of an al-Qaeda attack on the election, though it said there was no specific threat.

"There is no specific intelligence that suggests Election Day, polling places and the like," Ridge said, adding that he had urged local authorities to be vigilant.

"We share responsibility to provide security to take whatever steps they need to make sure that we have the right balance between security and an open and successful electoral process. That's what people are doing and people ought to feel comfortable about that."

There is a "high" alert in New York and financial districts in nearby New Jersey and in the capital of Washington, But it is one grade lower, at "elevated" to the rest of the country. "High" is the second highest on the five-level alert system.

Authorities say added antiterrorist precautions have been taken in all 50 states.

Bin Laden, architect of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, warned the United States, especially the campaign of Bush and his Democratic rival John Kerry, with his threat of new attacks in a video message broadcast by the Al-Jazeera Arab satellite television network.

Yasser Gharaibeh, al-Jazeera CEO of Qatar, said: "Basically, he is saying if you don't want another Manhattan, you got to change your policy. He is basically giving us a given period here. He is saying: You've got a period to change your policy."

White announced Harry Pahny of publishing the Bin Laden tape, but did not mention the issue in his campaign speech here Saturday though he did enter it in conversations with local television stations.

And he stayed on the attack against his rival, painting his rigidist ideology than the Massachusetts senator was unfit to lead the war on terrorism. Bush declared after Sept. 11.

Kerry, closing his efforts in which Bush accused him of a "dangerous" attempt to reap political gain from the rape, promised in Appleton, Wisconsin, that he would provide better leadership in the global antiterror campaign.

"As I have said for two years now, after Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida were cornered in the mountains of Tora Bora, it was wrong to outsource the job of capturing them to Afghan warlords after a week earlier were fighting against us," Kerry said in a rally in the battleground state of Wisconsin.

Kerry said Bush should instead have used "the best trained troops in the world, who wanted to avenge American for what happened in New York and Pennsylvania and in Washington," to endeavor to the hunt. CIA officials, said.

"It was wrong to divert our forces from Afghanistan so we could rush to war in Iraq without a plan to win the peace," said Kerry.

"If in my pledges to you, I will use all of the power that we have and all the leadership skill I can muster—and that is, before me, more than when we have today.

"I will lead the world in fighting a smarter, more effective, tougher, more successful war on terror, and we will make America safer," Kerry pledged.

AFP

A CD&PLB worker's shirt was done a lead-covered sidewalk along Martin Luther King Boulevard Oct. 29 in Cleveland. US officials decided not to raise the heightened alert despite Bin Laden's threat of a new attack.

Buttiglione quits EU commission lineup

ROME—Rocco Buttiglione, who brought EU officials to a halt with his views that homosexuality is a sin and that women should stay home looking after children, said Saturday that he was stepping down as candidate to become the new European commissioner for justice.

So strongly did hostility and ill-mind members of the European Parliament object to Buttiglione's conservative views that they threatened to vote the entire lineup proposed by the European Commission president-elect, Jose Manuel Barroso.

Rather than face such a defeat and the certainty of a major political crisis even before he took office, Barroso withdrew all his nominees. Buttiglione, 56, said he was "offering my resignation to help the Barroso commission succeed."

Barroso himself made no comment Saturday about Buttiglione's move, his spokesperson. Pia Ahrenkilde saying only that "Jose takes note of the decision" and was working to find a solution "quickly."

Buttiglione said he had been upbraided in the parliament, and was the victim of a "superficial and very crude press campaign." Barroso in his choice Jacques Jean Barrot, 58, has made no apology for his views and described himself as an "unswerving realist."

"I am happy to have been able to bear witness to the values in which I believe and to suffer for them," he added.

According for the new commission, the parliament was not allowed to reject individual candidates, and its only recourse was to accept or reject the entire executive en bloc.

Based in Brussels, the commission is the executive arm of the 25-nation European Union.

Socialist members of Italy's parliament, who have had a stormy relationship with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, saw Buttiglione's nomination as an attempt by the premier to project Italy's right-wing agenda onto the European stage.

AFP

VIETNAM'S FAIREST

Nguyen Thi Huyen, a 19-year-old Hanoi resident who was crowned Miss Vietnam, parades in the traditional dress, ao-dai, during the final of a national beauty contest held Oct. 30 at the municipality of Ha Long. Forty-one women aged 18-24 were selected from more than 2,000 women nationwide to contest for the final.

AFP

IAEA to resume probe of S. Korea nuclear bid

SEOUL—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will this week begin re-investigation into South Korea's past experiments with potential ingredients for a nuclear bomb, officials said Sunday.

The Geneva-based UN nuclear watchdog has said Seoul is still under the obligation to report to it on Tuesday for a six-day mission, officials at the science and technology ministry said.

South Korea has been under IAEA scrutiny since it revelations in early September that its scientists had conducted a few secret experiments in 1982 and as recent as 2000.

The IAEA has since sent inspectors to South Korea twice to inspect nuclear facilities, interview scientists and take samples.

Seoul has said the experiments, which were conducted without the government's knowledge and were thus undeclared, were scientific research not linked to any weapons programs. It allows full-scale IAEA inspections.

Seoul officials have expressed hope that the IAEA will close the case by reporting to a "full and balanced" manner to its board board meeting on Nov. 25.

The IAEA board will decide whether to refer the case to the UN Security Council, which can impose sanctions on nuclear energy proliferators.

North Korea, rising concern about Seoul's nuclear experiments among other issues, last month refused to submit a proposed new round of multilateral talks on ending its own nuclear weapons drive.

AFP

HALLOWEEN CONTEST

A contestant passes an unwanted during a Hip-hop Halloween Contest in Bangkok Oct. 28. Some 30 people joined the contest.

5 shot dead in violence in Thailand after Muslim deaths

BANGKOK—Five people have been shot dead in separate incidents across Thailand's Muslim majority south over the weekend in violence continued following the death of 78 detainees after a demonstration last Monday, police said.

On Sunday morning Sudkhet Satthabood, 34, a Buddhist construction worker, was gunned down at his home in Cho-ai-Rong district by two unidentified assailants on a motorbike, police in Narathiwat province said.

Four others died Saturday.

A police officer, Lieut Colonel Sirichai Rattanakong, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Pattani province, was shot dead by unknown attackers Saturday evening as he stopped at a roadside grocery store, police said.

Two agricultural workers, Isthan Bungsil, 42, and Yut Sukran, 36, were shot dead in Narathiwat's Chanae district the same day, police said.

The latest suspicious car it is part of the violence," an officer said.

In Yala town, Donesan Chaema, 50, a former village headman in Cho-ai-Rong district of Narathiwat province, was also shot dead yesterday police said.

The latest deaths bring to at least 11 the number killed in the south by bombings and shootings since Thursday night.

An unidentified separatist group, the Pulo United Liberation Organisation, vowed Friday to launch renewed attacks on Thai security forces.

AFP

Ferment in Islam: Family challenges Sunni Muslim orthodoxy

By Jonathan Wright

CAIRO—At no time has Westerners the liveliest in Islamist thought, the youngest brother of the man who founded Egypt's opposition Muslim Brotherhood has taken on the state-backed Muslim establishment—from the liberal flank.

Gamal el-Banna, whose brother is Hasan, was a founding father of political Islam and was assassinated by agents of King Farouk in 1949, has come out of relative obscurity to campaign for a more pluralist version of the norms, the custom of traditional accepted by the vast majority of Muslims.

With support from Cairo's Ein Shakkour Centre, a controversial think tank, Banna and a small section of reformers also advocate the establishment of Adhan, the state institutions which for centuries has defined Sunni Muslim orthodoxy.

Members of the Muslim Brotherhood, probably the most powerful Islamist organization, consider it rather from the other direction, saying that as an agent of Egyptian governments it has compromised orthodoxy for political expediency.

The reformers have roused the world's largest Islamic clerk who dismissed them as "deviants" without so much enough support.

Rather this year, one of al-Azhar's scholars recommended the publication of the late Gamal al-Banna's books, something he continued for an institution which he believes threatens free thought and falsely claims a doctrinal monopoly.

He said to the complexity of the Banna family's role in Islamic thinking, Hasan's grandson is the prominent Swiss-born intellectual Tariq Ramadan, another liberal whose pronouncements fit with the line of Muslim communities in Europe.

Gamal el-Banna, outright and outspoken at the age of 84, was his campaign from a bookshop-lined apartment in Imbabi Street, a more down-to-earth area of working-class district of Cairo.

"I've always been an independent. My brother and I had different approaches. He was a wholly traditional Muslim while I had a secular education," he told Reuters in an interview.

Gamal said he never went joined the Muslim Brotherhood, which opposes the Egyptian government from the religious right and advocates the gradual introduction of Islamic law as defined during the first few centuries of Muslim rule.

Instead he worked with trade unions and women's groups, wrote and translated, refusing to take government employment and endeavoring what he called bourgeois views.

The argument between his group and the traditionalists is essentially over whether the early Muslim jurists defined authority for all time or whether the "gates of ijtihad" (analogous deductive) remain open in the 21st century.

Some of the staff at the Ein Shakkour Centre believe the answer is no riddled with fabrications and accumulations that it might as well be discarded in total, leaving only the undisputed text of the Koran as a sure guide for believers.

A conference at the Ein Shakkour Centre, where Ramadan was an honorary guest, came close to that position in October. "The participants called for reliance on the Koran as seen as the sole authentic source for reviewing the entire Islamic heritage," it said in a statement.

It also recommended "continuing all institutions ... that date a monopoly over religion and the proper interpretation of its holy texts." "It sees again should seek to establish the right of ijtihad for all," the statement added. Reuter

Beijing Olympics gets $13M from 'patriot'

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's richest man is the driving force behind $13.8 million in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the city's top Communist official is offering praise for the gift from a patriot, but critics are questioning

Newspapers ran a photo of Li's son, Victor Li, handing over a flowers-up-check made out to Beijing's National Swimming Center in Beijing City on Hong Kong Television Saturday.

"What has received is not just money but more importantly the patriotism of Mr. Li and his support for the Olympics," the South China Morning Post quoted Liu Qi, Beijing's top Communist Party official, as saying.

Li is known as he is in the Chinese business world and frequently donates to charitable causes in the mainland.

Li's donation comes after a $25.6 million donation by fellow Hong Kong tycoon Lo Ying Shik last year.

Nicknamed "Superman" for his ownership of many companies, Li's empire includes real estate, shipping, mobile networks, oil and retail companies. He was ranked the world's 19th richest man by Forbes magazine earlier this year. AP

Long putt puts Vijay in front

PALM HARBOR, Florida — Vijay Singh made a 30-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole that changed everything Sunday in the Chrysler Championship. A tournament that for most of the day looked set if it was up for grabs came down to a familiar conclusion.

Singh recovered from two consecutive bogeys to shoot a 67, giving him a one-shot lead over Tommy Armour III and making a half-dozen others play their best golf to have any chance of catching the No. 1 player.

The 45-year-old Fijian has won five times in seven starts, and he has won 30 straight tournaments with at least a share of the 54-hole lead, dating to the MCI Classic three years ago. A victory Sunday on the Copperhead course at Innisbrook would be his ninth of the season and make him the first $10 million ($17.8 million) winner in golf.

"I haven't won yet," Singh said.

All he has to do is duplicate what he did last week, when Ryan Palmer shot 62 in the final round to win at Disney. That might not happen as tournament one of the strongest fields of golf in Florida.

"It's a difficult golf course to get low," Singh said. "I think I have to play solid golf — 1 or 2 under should be it for me, I think."

Singh was at 11-under 205, and Armour had the lead to himself until his birdie on the 17th.

Armour was lucky to be only one shot back. His approach to the 18th hit the bleachers, bounced off a tree and dropped into the rough near the green. He got up-and-down for par and a 68, putting him at 11 under 205 and in the final group Sunday with Singh.

Jesper Parnevik and Kirk Triplett each had 68 and were at 10-under 206. Another shot back were Jose Maria Olazabal (67) and Tom Gillis (68), who now have a chance to keep their cards for next season.

Jeff Sluman and Jonathan Byrd, the co-leaders through 36 holes, both got off to solid starts until they stumbled on the back nine. Sluman's slide started early, a triple bogey on the 10th hole, and he never quite recovered on his way to a 74 that left him three shots behind. AP

MILLER: Out for six weeks.

Broken hand sidelines ace Pacers guard

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana guard Reggie Miller's broken left hand is worse than initial examinations revealed, and the Pacers star is now expected to miss six to eight weeks.

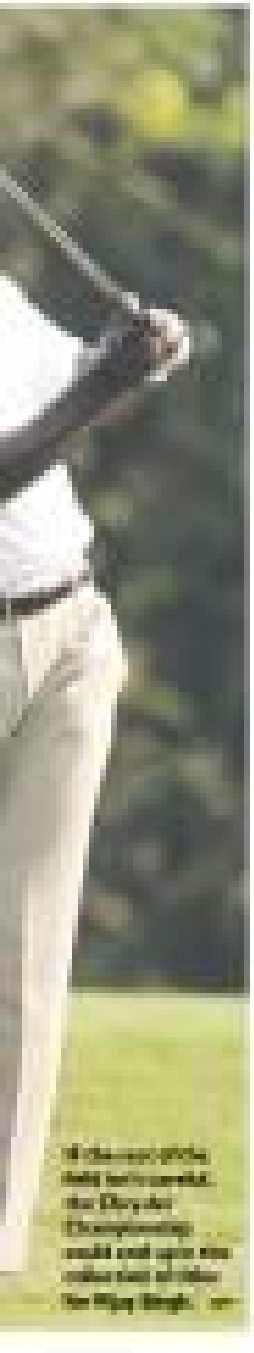
Miller injured his non-shooting hand in his team's previous home game against Sydney on Friday night. Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said after the game that Miller would miss four to six weeks.

Miller was re-examined Saturday. He faces a long list of bad news for the Pacers.

Indiana is already without Jermaine O'Neal (strained ligament in left foot), Jeff Foster (hip), Anthony Johnson (broken hand), David Harrison (shoulder) and Jonathan Bender (knee).

O'Neal could miss three to four weeks in his first test. The Pacers will need their best player back as soon as possible.

Indiana can probably get by with Rainko Jackson filling in for Miller and Scot Pollard for Foster in centre, but as Rudy Gruden said, "We don't have anyone else on our team that does all the things Jermaine can do." AP



Park holds off Annika for CJ Bridges crown

JEJU ISLAND, South Korea—South Korea's Grace Park shot a 3-under par 69 Sunday to win the CJ Nine Bridges Classic, holding off top-ranked Annika Sorenstam by three shots.

It was a major victory for Park, who came off a third-round collapse two weeks ago in the Samsung World Championship in California.

"I can't describe my happiness with words," Park said after finishing off her crucial win with a birdie on the 5,794-meter (6,300-yard) Club at Nine Bridges course on Jeju Island's Jung Island.

"Even though I had several mistakes in my practice from the beginning, I didn't really have any dangers of a bogey because my shots were really good today," Park said, waving to the gallery.

Park got off to a slow start Sunday, bogeying the first hole. But she rallied on the closing, sinking the five-to-eight birdies for the round.

Park finished the tournament with 280 strokes in total, five strokes ahead of Sorenstam and Sweden's Carin Koch.

Sorenstam, who entered the final round three strokes off the lead, grew weary a bogey on the 17th hole before finding the green on her second stroke of the par-5 No. 18 and hitting an eagle putt.

Defending champion Ahn Shi-hyun shot 288 after the final round and shared fourth place with Lorena Ochoa and Jung Jang.

Also making the final round three strokes behind Park, and bridged the gap by sinking two consecutive birdies on 15th and 16th holes before finishing No. 14 with a bogey.

Park was presented with a traditional South Korean hanbok dress when she accepted her prize Sunday.

Koch birdied, who always with a 64 in the second round for the Park for the lead, struggled on the 71 in the final round on Sunday night strokes off the lead to a six-stroke competition Sharon Richardson. AP

SOUTH Korea's Grace Park admires the trophy she won in the CJ Nine Bridges Classic at the Nine Bridges Golf Club in north Cheju county on Cheju Island, about 500 kilometers (310 miles) south of Seoul. Park held off Annika Sorenstam for the title. AP PHOTO

Forsyth takes three-shot Volvo golf edge

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Alastair Forsyth fired a four-under par 68 Saturday to open a three-stroke lead over Ian Poulter and Sergio Garcia in the third round of the Volvo Masters at Halmstad.

Play was postponed for lasting light after an 86-minute afternoon delay caused by a passing thunderstorm.

Forsyth, playing in the last group with Garcia, had just made a birdie at the 12th hole to get to eight under par with the Spaniard facing a six-foot putt when the players were called in from the course.

When they returned, Garcia missed the putt to fall three behind.

The Spaniard's bid to win his second Volvo Masters trophy ended with a double bogey on the par-4 16th. He finished the day tied with Poulter on 211 and Garcia one shot back.

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Also making the final round three strokes behind Park, and bridged the gap by sinking two consecutive birdies on 15th and 16th holes before finishing No. 14 with a bogey.

Park was presented with a traditional South Korean hanbok dress when she accepted her prize Sunday.

Koch birdied, who always with a 64 in the second round for the Park for the lead, struggled on the 71 in the final round on Sunday night strokes off the lead to a six-stroke competition Sharon Richardson. AP

INQUIRER

OPINION

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The nation's ghosts

EDITORIAL

THE TWO days we troop to the cemeteries and remember our dead offer a welcome respite from the changes and counter-changes of corruption in the military. We all know we cannot wish the scandal away, but today and tomorrow we can at least turn our thoughts elsewhere.

But there is in getting away from the unsettling notion that, in this particular season, we as a nation have more to mourn than the mere absence of our dearly departed. We approach these holidays with a sense of gloom, worsened by the same old stories of corruption in the government and crisis in governance.

The truth is, we may have buried our dead, but their ghosts continue to haunt us.

We may have buried the colonial experience, but we continue to believe in the myth of a special relationship with the United States. Even many of those who are terminally anti-American place an undue emphasis on US intervention, as though nothing substantial happens in the country without an Ugly American behind it pulling the strings.

Even today, 58 years after the United States formally granted independence to a devastated nation it was not in its interest to rebuild, we continue to practice a foreign policy measured in terms of closeness to or distance from US goals.

Distant, according to conventional wisdom, after the closing of the American bases in 1992; close, according to the Arroyo administration, especially after the September 11 terrorist attacks pushed the country into the so-called Coalition of the Willing, allegedly distant again, according to the political opposition, after Philippine troops pulled out from Baghdad.

For the longest time, we even marked July 4 as Philippine-American Friendship Day, unaware or unmindful of the irony that it was a holiday celebrated no only one side of the Pacific.

We may also have buried the martial law experience, but we continue to labor under its many nasty legacies. Only yesterday, in this space, we spoke of the confusion of last the declaration had on the Armed Forces as an institution. But confusion attacked other pillars of society as well.

Because Secretary Mateo wanted to keep up legal appearances, the legal profession itself was compromised. Some of the leading lawyers today helped create or maintain the legal framework behind martial rule. Much of this framework remains operative.

Through the practice of crony capitalism, the private sector was also compromised. The economy was burdened with an unmanageable foreign debt, and in 1983 was brought almost to the brink of collapse. Much of this debt remains. We continue to pay for billions of dollars incurred and misused, including funds for the grossly overpriced Light Rail Transit and the never-to-be-used Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

We may have also buried the impeachment experience, but we continue to suffer from its polarizing effects. The divisive politics that marked the last two elections continues to poison the atmosphere. Yet another attempt at political reconciliation is to the works, but there is no shortage of politicians or political has-beens who are ready to prod let—against all common sense or the lessons of history—that an administration less elected less than six months ago would soon find itself out of power.

Perhaps one reason why these and other ghosts continue to haunt us lies in their manner of death. There was no lack of fires—inauguration day in 1946, the flight of the Marcoses in 1986, and so on—but there was, there continues to be, a lack of resolution. As Filipinos, we prefer to blunt the sharp edge of confrontation.

Instead of cleansing the soils after World War II, for instance, we preferred to gloss over the issue of collaboration with the Japanese invaders. Instead of prosecuting the Marcoses to the fullest extent of the law, perhaps through a special court with a special mandate, we allowed the family and their cronies to return to their old glory. Instead of risking the sympathy of a supportive international community to repudiate the onerous debts contracted by the Marcos government, we acted like the proverbial Little Brown Brother and honored all of it.

Is it any wonder we find our dreams disturbed at night?

What we need to do is to exorcise, once and for all, the demons of our past.

Mythological monsters for All Saints' Day

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

I DON'T know why we have to borrow the Halloween and its pumpkins, witches and black cats from the West. After all, we have our own. Among ancient mythological monsters that old days and "before" is not, in the modern era 21st century they still do—millions of youngsters. In fact, the evening and momentary girls still carry their pubbies while, Asians do the scampering subordinate nervously, the sophisticated "ladies of the night" from the center of the campus vice, dispel stories of those monsters haunting spooner corners. That and the terrorist movies on TV at "mineralcon" appear more and more like the biographies of monsters creep literally from the pages of mythology, legend, folklore, and of modern "horror" movies of human haters, "abusers" the Filipino monster.

Thanks to our penchant for imitating others cultures, our own tradition of "pagan-pulations" during All Saints' Day—when groups of young boys went to the cemeteries to frighten neighbors while others steal chickens under the leaves, all in good fun—is fast being replaced by the westernized "trick or treat" rituals in the children's villages. In a few more decades, our own traditions and mythological monsters will be forgotten.

When I was growing up in Malabon, I and my generation were considered one of those mythological monsters. Although Malabon is now a city and a part of Metro Manila, it was then a small town with fields of rice, fish ponds, coconut and vegetable gardens—and a goldfish population. What causes the elders now greet our excursions who sound the youngsters with rules of fear and other monsters but only in All Saints' Day but also on other days of the year.

At that time, we lived in a family compound in the middle of the fields. In early summer, in the caves was a long fishpond dike. Sometimes flowers ran the dikes a kilometer from Tenazas (where you go now to mall from Divisoria), across the wooden bridge to Letre (the name) to Tonsuya, on the other end. If you lived in Concepcion Tonsuya, you had to walk the whole kilometer. At night, the stretch through the cane and fishponds was very dark, but the people taking this route had nothing to fear about robbers and drug addicts. What they were afraid of were the monsters that they imagined were lurking in the dark.

At the nearer corner was a store long before it was commercial type at the edge of the pond. At night we would gather under its light to play pantomime or hunting games. When we got tired of playing, the storyteller would begin.

The stories became believable because they were delivered with gestures, pauses and leers. There was the woman-beauty with child who was victimized by an enemy. My wife told that an enemy was a human who sees the town of an enemy, a big pot or dog, then turns into another one because where a pang with "another" look in the dark. Is it the wrath? The debtors was a human page, she denied hearing out of a sting say or she carried on unmistakably, so these savageries were prized by families that had them.

In the stories, of course, pants pigs and dogs were roaring under houses for food. Illusions for revenge, they were chased by by mentals.

Another form of among dreaded beasts, mostly—which in those days were mostly mainly of cigar smugglers, deep the house, the stories of the "aswang" were the strings from the mouth of and body sleeping times and you have once a deep sleep, never to wake up.

There stories kept us awake most nights or made us sleep never bedrooms because we did not want to be the last to be awakened to go to the toilet. Little did we know then what the stories with its tales only pulling our legs.

Then there were the tigers, a genre that on top of a tree stalking a big tiger, the old-fashioned, half-beast and half-man, and the man-orangutan, a woman whose upper torso appeared from the rest of her body and those of us from the rest of our body. Of course, the stories at night, creating fathers daylights to watch itself again to the front hall. The aim is, fight the mannequin and was to look for the towel hall before daylight, spread tab on a to skin the upper hall could not commands is a to be the mannequin would be would die.

The typical mythical monsters by entering the eyes of a baby. The wrinkles followed the baby's eyes and before he realized it, he had lost his way and could not find his way back out of the woods to his room. To break the spell, the victim had to take off his or her shirt and put it back on inside out.

The dreaded was, of course, the one dead that lived in unusually dreaded and detested under mandarin. The dreaded should not be mistaken for the "living dead" or zombies, who are those who have died but still live among us. Those living in these mounds of earth (actually cement tubs), causing a spell or sorbcell who stepped on those lids to open our breathed against their invisible selves. In those days, we could not walk over a mound or a tomb without saying "tabi-tabi po" (excuse me, please) or "Tabi-tabi po ngbong, di ko po kayo sadyang." (Please excuse me, old man, I cannot see you.)

When my younger brother fell from a coconut tree, the old folks said he was pushed by a mandarin because he had stepped on his favorite spot. In fact, whenever somebody got sick, the worst or poorest was always blamed. An example, they said.

The hardest part of the storytelling session was when the storyteller would invite others to come through dark parts. The way home for the way through the dark fishpond dike. Where the dike could a display, there was a large area where a leper, or the motorbikes and, sometimes out wearing his pants by. I dreaded that more than the mandarin. He would not go to me. I am closed my eyes and ran past it as fast as I could. It was no small miracle that I never fell into the pond.

More pots, more kettles

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

WHAT a majestic furore during selling the compromises of leave his mother about? Why dropped his mother into the pioneer in the old days of "Bahay ni Lola" to see, in the modern era 21st century they sell do—millions of youngsters. In fact, the evening and momentary girls still carry their pubbies while, Asians do the scampering subordinate nervously, the sophisticated "ladies of the night" from the center of the campus vice, dispel stories of those monsters haunting spooner corners. That and the terrorist movies on TV at "mineralcon" appear more and more like the biographies of monsters creep literally from the pages of mythology, legend, folklore, and of modern "horror" movies of human haters, "abusers" the Filipino monster.

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who opposed Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, is a relative of Garcia and ally. The messenger is not to blame for the bad news, the incident of the bad news are to blame for the bad news. In fact, the appeal of shenanigans in the AFP shouldn't even be surprising anymore. It should strengthen the AFP by ridding it of scoundrels. It's a failure to imagine an investment is saved by covering up its wreck, as Emile Zola stressed with describing that in the case of the French military. What is tragic is the power to be honest by condemning one of its officers. Alfred Dreyfus, in an act rather than admit it wrongly accused him of treason. Of course, GMA likes to do it too—the wind to jail Aves Ramirez instead of submitting the made a mistake—and gets away with it.

What taints the soldier is not having his opinions exposed for corruption, it is having his bar exposed to crony status. What taints the soldier is that other 30 years in the service, all to have their worthiness earlier battle.

But while at this, I don't know why the AFP doesn't put on the tables or chair on the entrance. And for the same reason as corruption government by taking it out of its dregs. Heaven, it happened to its intelligence heads? The guy with epaulettes off to it a point the AFP has its intelligence lost?

Santiago herself has a husband and brother who are not beyond suspicion. And the persons is a person do not middle class of Iggy Aurora where the founders birth against a dictatorship. Wasn't she the same person who most zealously defended the top four charges of it, despite quite of evidence that would destroy the fallow husband player in the country? She even to

Subscribe

Not necessarily winner by majority votes

As I had noted earlier, the US presidential election looks so much like any local election, with charges of "fraud" and intimidation flying around. The latest charge is that there are thousands of "missing ballots" in precinct Florida. Perhaps, this "missionary" is one reason for the heightened interest among Filipinos in the US election. Reportedly, Filipino-Americans are split between George W. Bush and John Kerry but, seemingly, so are the Filipinos here.

At the recent celebration of former Sen. Hebecon Aquino's birthday, the guests decided that there was nothing the Filipino candidate would win more than supporting the eventual winner. The guests then took a poll; the winner by Kerry was led by Hebecon and Cielo Alvarez, who had worked with him on peace issues during their cabinet days in the Aquino years. While the Bush backers-only was led by business executive Fernando Ortiz. Classified as "in between" was Francis Mangilayan, who said he's for Kerry but thinks Bush will win. He all agreed that if Kerry wins, his supporters will be entitled to a free trip to Europe on Kerry's plane. Fine and that if Bush wins, his supporters will only get a Jollibee treat since they are quite a number.

In a recent conversation with my Tokyo-based daughter Christine and her husband Reiichi Miki, I couldn't understand why so many Filipinos are for Bush (the Japanese are overwhelmingly pro-Kerry, except for PM Junichiro Koizumi). They suspect it's because he came over last year for a lightning visit. I agreed—Bush is a known factor to Filipinos.

* * *

But despite the interest in the US election, many have still don't understand how a US presidential candidate can win the "popular vote" and still lose the election. This actually happened in former Vice President Al Gore in 2000, when Bush was declared winner after he clinched the 25 Florida electoral college votes, following the Supreme Court decision to stop the recounting. Gore, however, helped by that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's election lawyer, Romulo Makalintal, sent me an article explaining the "unique features" of the US presidential election.

* * *

Makalintal says that had the 2000 US election been held under the 50 electoral system, Gore would have won because he garnered the highest number of votes. But the fact is that Bush became president by virtue of the majority of votes among the twenty-one leaders, the "Electoral College Votes (ECV)." Makalintal points out that the ECV system has been mandated by the US Constitution since 1787, and is composed of "electors" from each of the 50 states. Each state has the same number of electors as the number of senators (always two senators per state) and representatives (proportionate to the state's population). Thus, for instance, the most populous state, California, has 55 electors (two senators and 53 representatives). Several tiny states, e.g., Alaska and the new Dakotas, have only three electoral votes each. Makalintal explains that under the ECV, the presidential and vice presidential candidates who gather the highest number of votes in a given state bag its entire electoral vote. Thus, if Kerry gets two million votes from California versus Bush's one million, he bags all his 55 electoral votes and none from Gore. On the other hand, if Bush gets four million votes in Florida, where his brother, Jeb Bush, is the popular governor, and Kerry picks only a million, then Bush carries all his current 27 electoral votes.

* * *

As Makalintal explains, each candidate needs to win the popular vote in every state in order to get all its electoral votes. The ECV for 2004 is 538 votes and the candidate who gets a simple majority of these votes, i.e., 270 votes, wins. But what happens if no candidate bags the magic number or if there's a tie? Makalintal notes that the president shall be picked by the US House of Representatives from among the three candidates who got the highest number of electoral votes.

* * *

Inference now works to the fact that in the 2000 election, Gore won in the popular vote but lost in the ECV. But two probably remember, as Makalintal notes, that prior to the outcome of the Florida votes, Gore led in both the popular and electoral votes—but 49 states and the District of Columbia had already been tallied, the 13th (Florida) is located. Without Florida's votes, Gore had 266 electoral votes, just four short of the magic 270 votes, whereas Bush had 168. But as Makalintal pointed out, Florida's 25 electoral votes shifted the balance in favor of Bush, who had 271 votes. Gore lost a state margin of 537 votes! With Florida's 25 votes, Bush got 271 electoral votes, one more than needed to carry him to the White House.

All the pundits say this election is too close to call, and as Makalintal says, "the question is whether it would again be decided by the electoral votes instead of the popular votes." Because this question is coming up too often, there are those who suggest that the electoral vote ought to be abandoned in favor of the popular vote system. But obviously the founding fathers of the United States preferred the ECV system so as to prevent the perpetual dominance of the US elections by the more populous states, which today are California (55 electoral votes), Texas (34), New York (31), Pennsylvania (21) and Michigan (17).

Bigotry

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

One can easily tattle off places around the world where there is harmonious co-existence among peoples of differing religious persuasions: Closer to home is Malaysia, site of the finest example of current Muslim law so well with non-Muslims, both legislative and public life.

In this age of Muslim bashing, one really gets the impression of an anti-Islamic United States of America. Not so, more than half of the hate groups identified according to the rest of the nation in the populous three-just decades. One can see, for instance, a popular side of acceptance of Muslim Americans who are in the public eye, especially well-known sports figures. One gets easily reminded of Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, formerly of Denver Nuggets, who converted to Islam and changed his name from Muslim and Chris Jackson.

Too often, I have been asked by Manila-based friends, always with the look of apprehension, if I am safe here. Do not misunderstand me. And always, upon being introduced for the first time to Muslim-based persons who are told that I live in Mindanao, the introduction is consistently followed by the question, "Is it safe there?" Followed by, Meaning, of course, that there is this perception that we live in a possible land where Muslims are united by Great Fear.

I must admit at being annoyed by such questions. Of course, Mindanao has its problems as well

Top brass faulted for Armed Forces corruption

DOR seems to quarrel ill. his cacafficials don't seem to care; many of them wallowing in wealth and unconsciously displaying their huge acquisitions here and abroad, while the majority of our people are miserably poverty.

No have been told that many of their riches were built through corruption. This is supposed to shame us, a predominantly Christian nation. But corruption seems to have run in our country one after the other.

The lowest corruption scandal, which involves the Armed Forces of the Philippines, is a real testament of shapeless. May. Gen. Carlos Garcia is accused of accumulating wealth through kickbacks from military contracts. The AFP top brass deny they knew about Garcia's alleged corruption. If they're lying, it could be that they were part of the corruption. If they're telling the truth, then Garcia's alleged shenanigans—if true—passed unnoticed by the AFP hierarchy. Whatever, the top brass' avenues of ignorance are unacceptable as an admission of their failure to control the institution under their command.

As the people, Garcia's case further confirms what they have been saying for a long time: that their woes are squandered by the ruling elite to support their lavish lifestyles.

—NICHOLAS D. DAVAO, member, Sanggunniang Bayan, Igorot, Cagayan

Multinational agribusiness will not solve rural poverty

THE DEBATE between Hacienda Mahalan of Bataan-based Mindanao Foundation Inc. (STI) and Billy de la Rosa of Alcantara Farms, Inc. Stockarch in Mindanao (Altered as "Bank for all: Can we advance it?" (PDI, 10/17/04) is a most welcome contribution to the search for solutions to rural poverty in Mindanao. It is all the more welcome since the two are familiar with the Mindanao realities.

Mahalan has a good point in advocating an "agribusiness" strategy. It is clear from his explanation that he seems favoring, whether small or large-scale, to be viewed as an enterprise, not merely as a strategy for survival. The call for rural producers is to become entrepreneurs, to move from their farms into self-managed agribusinesses, not to surrender them to multinational interests.

Experience has shown, time and again, that the entry of multinational agribusinesses does not help local farmers in developing the full potentials of their farms, and reduces them usually to plantation laborers or, at best, expensive contract growers.

A strategy calling for farmers to become entrepreneurs needs linking them up with one another and providing them with support services from producers up to marketing, as described by Mahalan, so that they do not sell out to multinational corporations. Instead it can provide alternatives through associative economics, cooperatives and networks.

While both Dr. la Rosa and Mahalan make valuable points, it would pay if they could illustrate their respective positions based on more detailed hard data, particularly how all this boils down to families in the household level. In addition, the environmental issue of massive agribusiness development need to be much more adequately considered.

—ARNOLD FAINSAN BAYA, 2nd Street, Trinidad Greenhills Subd., Mandaue City

LETTERS

Dignity in fashion

I WAS glad to learn that the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board finally issued a memorandum to Ms. Eat Bedilla and Regine Velasquez for their too revealing outfits. Yes, such scanty clothing is just too vulgar. Five years ago, only prostitutes and bold stars would have the guts to undress that way.

In general, fashion westerners is too sensitive to mere discerning with their choice of clothes by opting for outfits that reveal give dignity and respect to the person. To be in fashion does not entail exposing too much flesh. I was quite disappointed to see a lot of plunging necklines in most theaters of Gina Reyes's fashion show at the Ayala Museum (PDI, 10/13/04).

Just as the recent issue in the Senate is "modesty" in dress, why can't we bring back dignity and elegance to fashion wear? Besides, beauty is linked to what is good. Sana, even if it is dressed in silk, our body is made but never beautiful and good.

—GINNY VILLEGAS, ginnyvillegas@yahoo.com

PAL Foundation's role in the twins' operation

TO fail to responding the story "Heartstrong Don Quixote triumphs" (PDI, 10/25/04) it was my delightedmige instrumental was Dr. James T. Goodrich and Sevina H. Gilmore of the Children's Chance Commission who donated the money through the Philippine Airlines foundation, for the visas and passports of the Aguirre family.

When they were initially denied visas, it was the PAL Foundation that witnessed JV Rufino of PAGE out to highlight their plight. MANILA issued for all the three US time immigration visa applications of their grandmother Dorinda Aguirre. As usual, the money was received through the PAL Foundation.

—BA. CARMEN A. FARRERONS, executive Director, Philippine Airlines Foundation

Supreme Court's continuing legal education for judges

IN BEHALF of the Philippine Judicial Academy, I wish to take exception to the remarks made by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, supposedly the lawyer of Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago, that the Supreme Court is "wasting" its time, why can't we bring back dignity and elegance to fashion wear? Besides, beauty is linked to what is good. Sana, even if it is dressed in silk, our body is made but never beautiful and good.

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The first two applications were denied. The third time Mr. Aguirre applied, I personally accompanied her, helped her during her interview and she was given a visa. I have her "report back" letter and shall keep her remarks in the PR firmware when she returns to the Philippines, courtesy of PAL.

The processing of all the travel documents and the securing of the medical sponsors for all the previous visa applications and staging also of the Aguirre twins, prior to their acceptance in the Children's Hospital of Montefiore, were done through the PAL Foundation.

—BA. CARMEN A. FARRERONS, executive Director, Philippine Airlines Foundation

The rich's refusal to share wealth

RUMSFELD is right in the problem of poverty is "overpopulation." This is debatable. We do not lack foods. We have billions of money in our economy enough to provide every Filipino with a decent and comfortable life.

These monies, however, are not with the poor who need them, but with the rich businessmen who would adopt thousand homes, ships and jets rather than pour billions and millions luxury cars, resorts and palatial homes if only to insure their wealth and provide their extravagant and personal quirks, instead of sharing part of their wealth to help the poor own homes, if not at least, to maintain feeding centers.

If only the top 20 of our big businessmen will share 10 percent of their wealth, the problem of poverty need in their self for population control will, no doubt, be solved. The problem, indeed, is not the lack but the unequal distribution of wealth, the refusal of the rich to share their wealth with the poor, as if the poor are not part of humanity itself, to attain the rich claim to be committed. The call of the times is for the rich to share their wealth so the poor not to curb population growth.

Instead of teaching our political leaders lessons in transparency and intellectual honesty, our business leaders are becoming like them in their display for indecency, our businessmen know that the cause of poverty preventing to our nation is not over-population, but the inability of the poor to uplift themselves because of government neglect, lack of job opportunities and lack of education, as well as the rich's unashamed refusal to stop help them.

—FR. M. IMBONG, executive secretary, legal office, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, 470 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila

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Experience has shown, time and again, that the entry of multinational agribusinesses does not help local farmers in developing the full potentials of their farms, and reduces them usually to plantation laborers or, at best, expensive contract growers.

A strategy calling for farmers to become entrepreneurs needs linking them up with one another and providing them with support services from producers up to marketing, as described by Mahalan, so that they do not sell out to multinational corporations. Instead it can provide alternatives through associative economics, cooperatives and networks.

While both Dr. la Rosa and Mahalan make valuable points, it would pay if they could illustrate their respective positions based on more detailed hard data, particularly how all this boils down to families in the household level. In addition, the environmental issue of massive agribusiness development need to be much more adequately considered.

—ARNOLD FAINSAN BAYA, 2nd Street, Trinidad Greenhills Subd., Mandaue City

Across the NATION

GMA to lift Bicol economy via railways

BALOLONG FESTIVAL
Participants show their wares during the Balong Festival in Legazpi City yesterday.

By Ronnie Lovejo
and Jesus Escudero jr.
INQ Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday vowed to help the Bicol region rise from being the second poorest region in the country to a higher economic level within six years, especially through the rehabilitation of the Philippine National Railways from Metro Manila to Legazpi City.

The President arrived at the Legazpi airport here at about 3 p.m. and was given a briefing on the poor situation in mines and other officials, together with Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez, Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal, Rep. Joey Salceda and other local officials, at the special terminal for airport.

Briefly speaking before participants and guests in the Bulong Festival street presentation at the Peñaranda Park here, she called on the Bicolanos to urge their congressmen, governors and other local officials to work together for the realization of their dream to be lifted out of poverty.

The Chief Executive also told the Bicolanos that she would push for the establishment of Metro, will off-facilities at the major flood ports to facilitate the movement of passenger and cargo between the region and the Visayas provinces.

Rosal reviewed President Arroyo's rank a landslide locally called "panalo," in recognition of the great concern the President has shown to the Bicolanos.

"Thank you for crowning me," Ms. Arroyo said, as she also thanked the Bicolanos for the overwhelming votes they gave her during the last elections.

From the Peñaranda Park, the President and some Cabinet members met with local officials to discuss the Bicol State Basic Watershed Management Project.

Earlier, in Camarines Sur, influential groups in PR were asked the President to educate the Department of Public Works and Highways central office in their province.

In a rare show of unity, the Regional Development Council (RDC), the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) Bicol, the Bicol League of Municipal Mayors and the Provincial Board of Camarines Sur last week sent President Arroyo resolutions that endorsed the relocation of the DPWH in PR.

Modesto Rodriguez, director of the National Economic and Development Authority and vice chair of the RDC, said the resolution was in support of the President's 10-point agenda.

She said the request for the transfer followed the President's series of discussions with Bicol officials that included the carrying out of humanitarian missions to strengthen government operations.

Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., RDC chair, has proposed the relocation of the DPWH central office at the 110-hectare Capitol complex in Pili and offered to donate an area for the project.

Villafuerte said the relocation of the DPWH to Camarines Sur was ideal considering the proximity of the province to Metro Manila that could be reached by land, sea and air transportation facilities.

The move would further help the ailing Bicol economy in that it would generate increased employment and spell economic gains for the region, he added.

Jose A. Esteves Jr., regional governor of PCCI, said his group saw that the approval of the request by the President would facilitate the upgrading of its airports, skyports and road network in order to meet with the requirements to attract investors and boost economic activity.

BICOL officials crowned President Arroyo as the modern heroine locally called "panalo," in recognition of the great concern the President has shown to the Bicolanos.

Kin of slain newsman appeal for help

MASBATE, Philippines—The family of a community newspaper publisher, who was killed in a road accident here on Wednesday, appealed to the court of records for his murder case to continue its pendency.

Melvin Estigo, 47, died when his motorcycle was hit by a van on Barangay Bantigue here. Estigo was the publisher of the weekly paper Barangay and ran a field reporter of local radio station dwRV.

Chief Insp. Arnold Reyeles, police chief here, said his men were still looking for the owner or driver of the van who sped off after hitting Estigo.

Estigo left behind his wife Josephina, their seven children aged between 6 and 18, and two adopted children aged 3 and 4.

Reyeles said before Estigo died, the owner of the bar where Estigo had a small house had told him to leave the property.

"He just asked for some time to find a house for his family," Reyeles said.

Estigo's wife, Josephina, said to send a small town that would subsidize supplies but the family had to close it because they lacked money to support its operation.

The Pengasinan Tri-Media Association has started a fund-raising campaign to help Estigo's family pool the amount needed for his burial. Rolando Beato, Fuertes, PIR Northern Luzon Bureau

Cagayan Valley groups push mining ban

ISABEL, Mayor—Environmental groups in Cagayan valley have urged government officials to impose a moratorium on mining in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino, pending the resolution of legal issues on some provisions of the Mining Act of 1995 before the Supreme Court.

In a resolution, 51 representatives from various government agencies and non-government and people's organizations in the region said mining activities in the forests of the two provinces would upset the region's ecological balance and its economy.

"Cagayan Valley's economy is based on agriculture, of which its sustainable development and productivity is totally dependent on the Cagayan River watershed and its tributaries, particularly ... those within Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya," the resolution said.

The resolution was approved during the third annual stakeholders' conference of the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor (SMBC) on Oct. 22 in Santiago City.

Participants included officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, local governments in the five provinces of Cagayan Valley, and representatives of provincial federations of people's organizations.

Jovinal Mangaoang, regional Mines and Geosciences Bureau director, said validity for final say to any copy of the resolution, he doubted the legality of any mining accidents use that might be imposed.

"Who will approve it to legally binding?" he asked.

"I understand that some DENR officials are supportive. I hope they are aware of the progress of the government exposed by its late Sen (President Macapagal-Arroyo) and (Environment Secretary Heherson) Alvarez," Mangaoang said.

According to the SMBC resolution, the government should impose the moratorium while awaiting the decision of the high court on the constitutionality of some provisions of the Mining Act.

The signatories said the remaining forest areas of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya should be left to the DENR and various non-homestead groups to a priority conservation and protection area.

They expressed alarm over the recent development involving a proposed mining project in Australian company in the upland village of Didipio in Kasibu town, about 70 km from here.

The groups urged a review of the revised environmental compliance certificate (ECC) issued on Aug. 5 to Climax Arimco Mining Corp. (CAMC), as well as an agreement relative to the project.

There, they said, were guaranteed "without proper consultation with key stakeholders."

But Leandro Dollero, CAMC community affairs and environment manager, claimed that the company shares the SMBC participants' concern to protect and preserve the environment.

"This is why CAMC is doing its best to make sure that no destruction of the environment would be caused once the company starts its mining operations," she said.

Dollero said concerned groups were consulted before the issuance of the ECC. She said the company is ready, prior to its entire final mining, agriculture and forestry can co-exist.

Melvin Estacio, PIR Northern Luzon Bureau

12 cell phones lost during Davao parade

MATI, Davao Oriental—In thousands of people and vendors were watching Wednesday's colorful street-dancing parade held during the town's 10 1st founding anniversary, cell phone thieves struck and victimized several people, including a visiting government official.

The Citizens' Crime Watch here said that suspected members of a cell phone syndicate snatched at least 12 cell phone units.

Madilyn Sevilla, provincial chief of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, said the thieves took advantage of the crowd when they took her unit.

"I could not blame the cell phone snatchers because they operate inside the crowd, how could you chase them in that situation? The one that took mine passed my phone to a waiting accomplice and then they fled on board a motorcycle. I no longer have a cell phone now," Ms. Sevilla told the Inquirer.

On Wednesday afternoon, two students of the Mati National Comprehensive High School and a teacher went to the police station, just a few meters from the site of the street-dancing parade, and reported that their units were also stolen.

SPO3 Eduardo Dilot said they have been receiving people to file "same method" in handling their cell phones.

But Ms Sevilla said the students could have been prevented if police were deployed to the area. Edmund G. Ayaoso, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Erratum

INTRO second paragraph of the story "Gender view gets major push, evaluators hit grade," which appeared on page A20 of PDI (10/30/04), it was mentioned that "[D]irector Fernando Jhun G. Maldia, now subject of an arrest warrant issued by the Trust Metro court, claimed ..."

PDI correspondent Marlon Ramos clarified that the correct spelling of the court was not Metro court but Trust Metro court.

The paragraph should have read "... Maldia, now subject of warrant ..."

Baguio dad wants suggestive souvenirs out of stalls

BAGUIO CITY—The city's cheque souvenirs, like the mummies-for-hazard and the wooden penis ashtrays, may soon be a thing of the past if the city council has its way.

Councilor Hero Dalisay called for the ban on the carving of these souvenirs from and banned those still selling them to be penalized.

Dalisay said the ban is in line with the campaign pushing Baguio as a "Character City."

He said his resolution was spurred by an American tourist's comment that Baguio has become a "tacky" because of these items.

"The wood carvings are not a reflection of our culture and tradition as we have other more appropriate souvenirs to offer our tourists," Dalisay said.

Sellers were peeved at the idea while artists and other workers were amused.

"(Local officials) should focus on other more important things," said artist Xiangyu Thir de Cuia.

"(It) is a form of colonial mentality when you see manufactures of quality and we always bad," he said.

In Hainandi that in Thailand, where he was recently awarded the Country Artist's Choice in the 2004 Philip Morris Asean Art Awards, men wear penis sensitive called "pahel bleh" to attract and absorb any injury that might be directed towards their reproductive organs.

Emerald Bindoro, who works in the artist enclave in Tam-awan here, disagreed with Dr Cuia.

"I believe in artistic expression but these items would not done in good sense," she said.

"Maybe your ancestors have penis envy?" joked Jeanne Bermejo, a tourist from Manila eyeing one of the small man in the barrel wooden wings being sold in PSCO de city market.

Baguio stores have been selling these souvenirs since the 1970s. Even a popular Filipino restaurant chain here featured the man-in-the-barrel with a plain wooden rendition.

Dalisay wanted the manchandise taken out of the stalls as soon "to erase the image of the city as promoting objects of sexual desire."

Dalisay's resolution fines those caught selling these souvenir P5,000 for the first offense and P5,000 and cancellation of business permits for the second offense. Frank Cimatu, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ILLEGAL FISHING

Whale-shark town seeks GMA help

LEGAZPI CITY—Local officials, environmentalists, fishermen and concerned residents have asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to help them put an end to rampant illegal fishing in Donsol town in Sorsogon and act on the apparent apathy of local and regional police officials.

Donsol has been dubbed the "Whale Shark Capital of the World" because of the presence of whale sharks locally known as butanding (Rhincodon typus), in its municipal waters.

The tourist problem was brought to the attention of the President on Saturday during her visit here to attend the fishing festival. She referred the issue to Chief Supt. Bernardo Mesquerdo, police regional chief.

Mesquerdo said the raids of shocking illegal fishing had already been devolved to the local government units.

But Donsol Mayor Jesus Ocoya bewailed the seeming indifference of Supt. Perfecto Rabusin, town police chief. She said Rabusin refused to assist her group in confiscating a fishing vessel in the municipal waters on Oct. 6.

Rabusin, however, countered that he had been informed by the regional intelligence group that its personnel were operating in the area at that time and that they could figure in a misencounter with the mayor's group and the local police.

"We can't help thinking that there are protectors of illegal fishing activities in Donsol," said provincial board member Rebecca Aquino, environment committee chair. Her family is from Donsol.

"Isn't it that police chiefs should be under the mayor, as stated in Republic Act No. 8551? But why the communication gap?" Aquino asked.

She said the mayor's office should know of any police operations in her area of responsibility.

What baffled Aquino and Ocoya was that some men from the regional intelligence office were seen by fishermen talking with crewmen of boats allegedly engaged in illegal fishing at the Woodland Resort here.

Members of the Task Force Sagip Kalikasan (Save Ecosystem and Nature) said a fleet of illegal fishing vessels, locally known as pangalong, which used super lights and very fine mesh nets, continued to operate in Sorsogon despite efforts to stop them.

"It will greatly affect the whale sharks because the pangalong is operating literally in the mouth of the whale sharks," Ding Manrique, TFSK-RE chair, said.

Although the whale sharks feed on small fish, go said, the very fine mesh nets would also catch their food.

Manrique said they were virtually helpless against the pangalong operators because the illegal fishers are armed and the police are not helping them.

Atty. Espinosa, presidential assistant for external affairs, said the TFSK had already sent a petition to his office seeking the relief the Bicol police chief and his intelligence officers for alleged indifference in going after illegal fishers, especially in Bulusan, Castilla-Inte Donsol, and Pilar-ran, Albay.

Espinosa said he petition claimed that the police officials enabled on Oct. 10 inquiry of the Sorsogon provincial board on the situation of illegal fishing in Donsol.

Mesquerdo denied the allegations against him, saying that they had acted, engaged in an anti-illegal campaign against illegal fishing in the region. He said his men had to be arrested [illegible] for illegal fishing in Bicol. Rowena Garcia and Jericho Laguesma, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Traders slam cops

Comelec employee slain

Exec in Nissy stay dies

Armed man kills cop

Tino Dimsans Jr.; 42

Student dies in crash

Dads in fisticuffs

Dead heat looms in White House race

From page A1

cent; Minnesota, Kerry 49.46 percent, Bush 47.61 percent; New Mexico, Bush 50.43 percent, Democratic candidate Al Gore 48.43 percent; Ohio, Bush 48.44 percent, Democratic candidate John Kerry 48.06; and Wisconsin, Kerry 49.42 percent, Bush 48.96 percent.

With up to 40 states already in the Kerry or Bush camps, the race is to be determined in closely fought Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, New Mexico and Nevada. Another six to 12 states could come into play before the campaigns do sum to a close.

Throughout the battleground, Kerry's mostly paid army of supporters were joined against Bush's largely volunteer-driven forces to get supporters to the polls on Election Day. It's too late for some: Early voting reached record this year and in Florida alone, more than 2 million voters have already cast ballots.

"It looks like the All-American tradition of voting on Election Day is going out the window," said Fred B. Lisby, elections supervisor with Florida's Broward County.

Bin Laden

Whipping up a campaign shadowed by war and terrorism, Bush and Kerry unabashedly sought political advantage from Osama bin Laden's reemergence.

In a videotape, Bin Laden declared the United States will be evening. Our American voters would be held accountable for the election of our leaders who decide to pursue the Muslims. (Page 2, related story in The World, Page A19.)

In response to the videotape, the Bush administration warned them and local officials that the tape may be intended to promote or signal mischief in the United States.

Even so, Bush brushed aside questions about whether the Laden was trying to influence Tuesday's election.

"He will not be successful if he is," Bush told Cleveland television station WEWS, in an interview conducted shortly before Election Day. "The American people will not be influenced or intimidated by any enemy of the people."

Campaigning in northern Wisconsin, Kerry responded to Bin Laden's reemergence with his customary criticism of Bush's post-Sept. 11 tactics in Afghanistan, the terrorist mastermind's base and perhaps current location.

"It was wrong to divert our forces from Afghanistan, so that we could make it easier to bring millions of dollars into the prison," said the Democratic challenger. "It was wrong to outsource the job of repairing this Laden to local contractors."

But Kerry later signaled a move to set down the volume of the topic to stir up partisan feelings, saying: "It doesn't matter to me and it shouldn't matter to all of us. There are no Democrats, there are no Republicans."

"No American voters are motivated by one determination: to destroy, capture, kill Osama bin Laden," said 60 of the terrorists. They are individuals, and we are going to hunt them down and we will make America safe," Kerry told supporters at a Wisconsin rally.

The two candidates responded to the bin Laden tape in voices reflecting their long-held campaign strategies.

Bush has sought to offset voter concerns about the war in Iraq, the economy and his overall job performance by fueling fears about terrorism—and, taking doubts about Kerry's ability to respond. Reports by Reuters, AP and AFP

US election fires up passions for or against Bush

From page A1

boosting the 1st percent turnout in 2000.

Turnout is a measure of how much value the American voter have put in the elections, the more they have put in the effort, the more and aggressive approach to processing the vote on every issue—an approach that has made campaigning in American tradition and other in the European model.

High turnout is known in the end to choose in part by the element of the race that could operate the result of the 2000 election which was decided by Florida. Bush had the candidate in losing the popular vote but by 537 votes in Florida, winning in the Electoral College tallied by a 5-4 ruling of the Supreme Court.

Thousands of lawyers have been deployed to back parties to match the election, and could continue after results irregularities in the closed states, among which is Florida. Up to now the Democrats claim the 2000 election was "stolen."

Isn't socialism

A delegation of 60 international observers, members from Europe arrived in the United States last week to scrutinize polling. Tom Mann, a Democrat and political analyst in the country's think tank, the Brookings Institution, said: "Isn't it unbelievable? The disfranchisement of our democracy has created such a concept that other countries now come to observe our elections."

Bush is the first president to run on presidents across the globe in recent times, and this election has centered in many parts of the world as an endorsement of Bush's doctrine of preemptive strike and unilateral attack, citing impossible on U.S. military pressure.

Non-American citizens are so antagonistically this doctrine and encourage exercise of U.S. military power in the world, even hoping to be the stubborn as more bombastic.

This antagonism is reflected in international opinion surveys and the unprecedented polarization of the international media on Bush. (Page 2)

In Davos, for example, there were marches in which Bush's citizens carried placards urging Americans to vote for "practical sense of France."

The most bizarre intervention comes from the left-oriented London newspaper, The Guardian, which sent out ads to urge its readers to write to voters in the swing state of Ohio—one of the less than 6 percent of voters who have not decided—to vote for Bush from the White House.

Equal reaction in the United States and the "transformative European affairs" should send their own banners. "But out there," said from going together of the Ohio Springfield News-Sun.

Even good international reaction is negative after the attack on Iraq is reflected by the comment from Howard Dean, ardent of the unsuccessful election of Democrats.

US press polarized

Polling in 44 countries by the Washington-based Pew Research Center showed a collapse of public support for the United States in most countries.

In the swing state of Florida, two newspapers failed to endorse Bush. The Orlando Sentinel, which has not endorsed a Democrat for president since Lyndon Johnson, backed Kerry. It said, "His presidency has utterly failed our expectations."

The Tampa Tribune chose not to endorse either candidate. It is the first time since 1952 that the paper has not backed the Republican candidate for the presidency.

The Denver Post in Colorado, another swing state, endorsed Bush after backing Al Gore in 2000.

The Wisconsin State Journal in another swing state endorsed Bush but added "this election is a protest not of choosing the better, but of eliminating the lesser."

New Yorker

For the first time in its 80-year history, the New Yorker magazine endorsed a presidential candidate, urging readers to vote for Kerry.

Explaining its decision, the magazine said it was not enrolling partisan independence. "As situations, reputation and circumstances, we will hold Cheney to the highest standards of honesty and integrity," the magazine said. "We have no money. We just hope for his money. We just felt that was an important election to make a stand on."

It devoted the latest issue of its editorial to slamming the Bush administration. "In general has been one of failure, arrogance, and—although for a term that prided itself on clear professionalism—incompetence."

RP's sick image blamed on misunderstood icons

From page A1

Their anthropological critics would have convinced them that the country could be the "Sick Man of Asia."

The DoTed, a grocery enterprise is wonder because the selves that are identified not left the memories old Filipino cure ailments, to found in an person in top politicians, to need for tabloid food products and vote predominantly displayed as a Filipino version of the Oedipus complex, among the revered Commandments.

Renowned anthropologist Fenner Bataila says Filipinos are fascinated with the icons because it is always referred to as an "Empire size god" that protects valuables.

Guardians of groceries

But the latest historical and sociological research refers to the icons reveals that ancient Filipinos carved them to defend themselves and the stuff of low for the in ancient Filipino civil liberties, says for the Manila democracy, a million-strong group of the Rogue Global Forest Cry Movement.

"The DoTed is even on the PLDT bill. It's like our users will fulfilling guidance from the Philippine Stock Exchange is financially in trouble ... now that we are talking about P200 billion in deficits and poverty and hungry Filipinos, our officials should look at their wooden pieces and their symbols," she says.

"If they realize that Filipinos have been venerating Sulit, keeper of dreams, they should reverse their priorities. If they should change the money. They should stop displaying sunflowers itself at airports."

The P1,000 bill shows two famous figures in the nation's history, the DoTed. The DoTed for the most prehistoric Negrito is a pair of fearless, ruggedly carved mannequins, made of metal, which is found, say its founders and other officials, in the Philippines and other countries.

Antique hunters actually buy illegally marketed DoTed for as high as P1,20,000 a pair, Bataila found.

Managerial jar

But businessmen experts say the DoTed like images at the birth of the US$ 600 billion asset of their Philippine Stock Exchange Philippine Inc. are dating to as far back as 4000 B.C., which was discovered in a cave in Palawan. The DoTe's control is trapped by a tainted bolt and the Department of Health, stated the inventor. The Boy gets nice treasure from a backdrop for the Managerial Jar in the bill.

Bataan says Filipino elders believed that there is a mystical link between the creators of the Jar in and the people who owned the Managerial Jar. He cites the Ifugao warriors in the villages of Ifu Province and Kalinga.

But to not to set thing a book on the true origins of the DoTed, which is found on 20 years of documentation of total history, the once-white crucifix for most about the descendants of the last time personal duty Filipinos also believe that the DoTed is a benevolent god."

Bataan senior person, called the members, and Filipino citizens are enjoined by the old and most successful, Bataan says, "because it reveals a kind of psychological value that Filipinos from in the wonders of cultural knowledge."

Tourist trinkets

She says she could be traced to 1918, when the American colonial government first tapped Filipino woodcarvers to create tourist trinkets, and to 1964, when the terms became a popular American antique export.

"My mother ... drove many where the myth about the DoTe started. But we believe that the misconception was propagated by the tourists (a) Filipinos. Even in the interior villages of Ifugao, boxes of a new god and were invented to deceive that city folk put a high stock in them," she says.

Filipinologist Father Fidelis Arens the tourist carvers packed a punch on the Americans by explaining that of images in human, creative items like the man in the navel is to awaken before image with DoTe because it is a symbol of a wound to conceal a wooden penis.

Bataan says this joke might have been carried to an almost extreme because "your times were primitive and our ancestors to ward off illness, says for the Manila democracy, a million-strong group of the Rogue Global Forest Cry Movement.

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Hospice care for the dying alive and well in RP

From page A1

She had just finished doing the laundry, she said, and she had a light sensation to do so to it.

Julie doesn't even recollect Medic Dr. Ramon Layug, who came to her house to check on her. But the doctor looks forward to the weekly visits and the moments his regular supply of morphine to ease her pain.

For her, surgery is no longer an option. She dismissed surgery after her first attempt to remove the tumor in her lung, cautioning four months ago had undergone surgery.

Magpayo was telling away the house of Banquete Medicare when nurse Angie Dy-Liacco arrived. She

WHEN this picture of Ruth Gallivan (in red dress) and her friend Tess Cuesta was taken, there were only two of them inside the camera frame. An extra image appeared beside the late cousin-in-law of Dr. Vicky Belo when the film was developed. It turned out to be Ruth's brother, Abraham, who had died three years earlier

THIS picture was taken by insurance executive Sylvia Amantes who swore there were only three of them in that Ilocos beach when she took the shot. Aside from the woman in the photo, a kid was standing right beside Amantes on the shore. "There's no way a fourth will appear because there's nobody there, Amantes told her friend paranormalogist Jaime Licauco

X-file case: Spirits show up in photos

From page B1

featured by a Florida-based newspaper in its Halloween issue.

Gallivan celebrated her 30th birthday on Feb. 24, 1999 by throwing a party for her close friends, according to Licauco.

"Several pictures were taken during that festive occasion. In one of them, Ruth posed with a friend, Tess Cuesta, sitting at the dining table. When this particular shot was developed the next day, the very dear image of a smiling teen had appeared beside Ruth," son of Licauco.

Whenever more than two only Ruth and Tess in that shot, said the paranormal expert.

Freak accident

On Feb. 26, two days after her birthday, Ruth died in a freak vehicular accident in Guadalupe, Makati City, shortly after attending the Edsa revolution rites.

"When her uncle, Rolando Hontiveros, arrived from Pagadian City to take care of her funeral, he was shown the pictures taken during Ruth's birthday party. When he saw the image of the teen, which appeared in one of the pictures, he at once recognized it as Ruth's younger brother, Abraham 'Boy' Gallivan, who had died three years before in Zamboanga."

Could the image have been deliberately superimposed on the picture to look like a ghost?

Licauco said "there seemed to be no sufficient motive for anyone to do that. Furthermore, the film was developed in two hours by a commercial photo-developing shop in Makati using an automatic process without manipulation by human hands."

Could this be a case of double exposure? Perhaps, the previous frame in the camera was not fully rewound.

Tomb in photo

Licauco explained "this theory is again not tenable because no other pictures were shot with that film except those taken during that party. And Ruth's brother, who died three years prior to the party, could not have been present there physically."

As for examination of the controversial photograph, he said, "there what looks like a tomb in a cemetery on the left foreground of Abraham's image. His brother, Art Gallivan, confirmed to me that it looked exactly like Abraham's tomb in Zamboanga. Art had that tomb made for his brother so he knew exactly how it looked."

Also part of Licauco's collection is one of those summer-on-the-beach photos. At first glance, that is.

It was taken on a beach somewhere in Ilocos by his friend, Sylvia Amantes, an insurance executive, according to the paranormalogist.

"The one who took the picture was Sylvia, who could a sibling was right beside her on the shore when she took the shot. And there's no way a fourth will appear there because there's nobody there. There were only three of them during that time," Licauco said.

Smiling Las Vegas ghosts

Sylvia, a child-typist, was also the one who took the picture of what Licauco calls the "smiling Las Vegas ghosts."

"She only wanted to take a photo of the facade of the Excalibur casino-hotel. She took aim no- body was there when she pressed the shutter of her camera. At first glance, there seems to be nothing unusual about the picture of three men walking in front of the casino-hotel. But as you examine the photo closely, you will notice that the three men are transparent. You can see some parts of the building through their bodies. Me only that. You will also note that they seem to be floating and not walking on the ground," Licauco said.

Licauco believes "spirits are simply drawn to Sylvia as attested by her successive paranormal experiences."

The "authentic photographic showing evidence and recognizable images of departed human beings are sufficient proofs that spirits do exist and can still be accessed on," he asserted.

So how about ghosts not caught on film?

"It is more common than you think. Actually, images of the dead appearing in photographs are not new," Licauco said.

What, after all, could be ghosts' proof of a ghost's existence than its image on film?

As early as the late 1800s, "a lot of such pictures appeared in the West in connection with spiritualist seances. Researchers felt then that, at last, they had some incontrovertible proof of the spirit's survival after physical death. But the popularity of spirit photography died down when some were proven to be results of fraud and trickery," he said.

Fraudulent spirit photography

Like the 1861 case involving Boston photographer William Mumler, who reportedly shot portraits that included dim images alleged to be his customers' deceased loved ones.

"Business boomed until it was noted that the ghost faces resembled some living Bostonians and could have been double exposures or overprinted images. Mumler was arrested, but fraudulent spirit photography of one kind or another continued to flourish," said the Time-Life multi-volume Mysteries.

But Licauco said some spirit photos turned out to be "genuine and up to now are unexplainable. I myself have seen and examined several of these photographs in which there was no possibility of fraud or double exposure."

Concentrate

"To see clearly you need to concentrate. In seeing images 3D on real time (in this glasses, you don't see them). So you really have to concentrate. Because when you do, like calling loved ones, searched their footsteps in factories where they once worked, secret letters in their own handwriting and even signed receipts as a Tupperware party," Licauco said.

With the advent of high-tech visual equipment, "spirits have also shown themselves in motion pictures, video tapes, TV screens and even on the Internet," he said.

So how do spirits do it? And what is said how do they superimpose themselves on films?

"I guess we will not know the answer to these, unless we talk to the spirits themselves," Licauco said.

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Editor Ester G. Olpoquil ■ Assistant Editor Carson B. Bibe

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FIRST HOURS OF PWU CO-ED'S SLAY

Key suspects seen driving victim's car

By Ruth L. Navarro

THE SECOND time they saw the black car was on television. The first time around, it was parked in their neighborhood.

What residents of Elim Masagay 1 in Barangay Inarawan, Antipolo City, saw was the black Honda Civic of 22-year-old Philippine Women's University student Jennalyn Reyes.

In the time they saw the car on the street, Reyes was still missing after disappearing on Oct. 31. Workers later found cold and lifeless in a morgue in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Also on the news, the residents recognized Gilbert Bonquilla, a nephew of their neighbor, Paul Inarritu.

Bonquilla had been arrested with six other persons at a house in Barangay Pinagsa in Bella Vista, Batangas, for possession of Reyes' car, which they had begun dismantling.

Bonquilla, 24, another uncle Ruben Inarritu, 36; Simeonville Bindao Jr., 37; Alden Bigue, 23; Jansen Mallari, 20; Pedro Pablo Jr., 40,; and Maria Cecilia Mercado were charged with car theft.

Later, they denied knowledge of Reyes' whereabouts.

During interrogation, Bonquilla claimed his father police investigators that the car, which bore the license plate UEK-806, was only brought by three men to his mother's house in Calamba, Laguna, on Dec. 11.

The three men, whom Bonquilla identified as Michael, Dante and an unidentified male, allegedly checked in at the Windsville Inn at about 7 a.m. and asked for Michelle in giving rid of the car.

Bonquilla said he offered to take the car in Ruben's place in Pedro Garcia, where police found the vehicle.

Residents noticed when Bonquilla's residents read Bonquilla's relative in the magazine.

Last week, Masagay 1 residents related to the suspects what they knew about the car and Bonquilla.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, three residents said that on Dec. 18, between 8 and 9 a.m., they saw two cars, sedan and pick in front of Paul Inarritu's house.

It was about five hours from the time Reyes was reported last seen alive leaving a bar in Los Baños. She was supposed to be going to her dormitory in Malate, Manila.

The next trade is to the dorm. Instead, her body was found at about 7:30 a.m. along the Manila-Inarawan lane of the South Luzon Expressway.

One of the cars that arrived at Paul Inarritu's house was white and the other a black Honda Civic, which residents later assumed was the car of Reyes.

"Ma-maputi yung kotse ng isa sa kasi ng nauna at malaki rin ito ng plaka [The black car looked classier than the others and, also, it had no license plate]," one resident said, explaining why the Honda Civic stood out.

Bonquilla, whom residents recognized by his friend Inarritu, was the driver of the Honda Civic. They said they had seen him before in their neighborhood.

Motorists later, they saw Bonquilla get out of the car and open the trunk of the Civic.

He appeared to take out a pile of muddy folded clothes which he transferred to the trunk of the white car.

All three men then climbed into the white car and left, leaving the black Honda Civic outside the house of Bonquilla's uncle.

Until Monday night

Residents said the car stayed parked outside Paul's house until Monday night.

When Bonquilla and the other suspects were thrown on television after their arrest, the residents said two of the men with him were the same ones who accompanied Reyes to Binagay 1.

Both wife, Edna, later confirmed to the reporter that Bonquilla went to their house on Oct. 31 but failed to talk to her husband.

Edna and Paul and her mother-in-law went to see Ruben, while she and her eldest daughter had left the house at 7:30 a.m. to attend Mass.

Already gone

Bonquilla and his companions were already gone by the time they came back.

One of her two children who were left at home later informed her that "Kapatid Ilaw" (Bonquilla) seems that meeting with "strangers whom they did not know.

The three men, the child told her, not breakfast first left.

Relying her neighbors' men, Edna learned that the three men never left the Mark Civic at their house.

A check by the reporter showed that Bonquilla owns a white Nissan Sentra with plate number DRS-742. The car is now in the possession of Pedro Garcia police in Batangas. With a report from Marlon Ramos, PIN Southern Luzon Bureau

ENGLISH: the colony of the living who are visiting the resting place of their dead, a bomb-sniffing dog of the Western Police District K-9 Unit stands at attention at the entrance of the Manila North Cemetery with other law enforcers.

LRT admits ₱197-M tax debt

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE LIGHT Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) has acknowledged owing Pasay City ₱197 million in taxes but may ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to have it condoned.

"We acknowledge the tax debt and we are pushing for a more permanent solution," said Mel Robles, LRTA general manager.

He said a compromise agreement was discussed with Pasay City treasurer Ofelia Olino in a meeting last week.

"The final agreement was resolved and the board has to approve if any action we are going to take," Robles said.

41 percent condonation

According to Olino, the city could condone 41 percent or about ₱80 million of the ₱197 million in LRTA's tax liabilities.

But the city treasurer said the LRTA owed Pasay ₱467 million in realty taxes since 1985.

Olino warned that the Pasay City government was poised to auction off the Metro Rail Transit Line 1, the Light Rail Transit Line 1 and Ninoy Aquino International Airport if these would not pay their real property taxes.

She said these three government facilities owed Pasay real property tax amounting to ₱1.6 billion, prompting the city to seize or bidding, maintenance and other improvements of the land.

Olino said the MRT owed them ₱957 million; the LRT, ₱467 million, and the NAIA, ₱.5 billion.

Robles, on the other hand, said he has motion in the third week of November along with properties of other delinquent taxpayers in the city.

Auction approved

The notice of auction has been approved by Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad, Olino disclosed.

The auction, Olino said, was recommended by the city's committee on tax collection properties.

"It will be added to other taxpayers if we will not include the three facilities because taxation should be uniform," the treasurer said.

She said the government had the option to resort to judicial and administrative remedies to save taxpayers fail to meet their obligations.

Businesses flourish in time of remembrance

By Tina G. Santos, Ethan C. Tordesillas Jr., Sara V. Quiel-Ivanida and Margaux Ortiz

THE DEAD bring out the best in Filipino entrepreneurs.

Since yesterday, vendors have walked out cemeteries in Metro Manila, to hurt, some have made the aisles and streets inside and outside the sites their temporary homes.

The Sangguniang Quinsoy in Calauan City is one place where businesses is often and ever-expectancing at expansion.

Glassware and clothes

Beyond the usual variety of candles, fresh flowers, undertables, candles and junk food, vendors were also sell glassware, clothes, toys, comic books and even power tools.

In Dimasalang, some have taken the season's spirit of being the "feast of the dead" seriously.

Colorful bunting and streamers with politicians' greetings can be seen starting to cemetery gates, who are met with stalls selling food, including green mangoes, bandags and barbecue.

A small farm have five chicks dyed in blue, red and pink, are peddled to visitors' children.

A few enterprising souls have even set up food stalls in front of their family mausoleums.

"This is one occasion we at least look forward to because we really earn more than usual," Jesus Santamaria, 46, a fishball vendor at the Barrio Cemetery, said in Filipino.

Others are livids, she said, even with the warning of why health officials that food bought from unlicensed vendors could lead to food poisoning.

Health officials are saying that food sold in cemeteries could have been exposed to dust and disease-causing organisms.

But not even the police could keep enterprising people from using tombs and niches to display their wares.

At the Sangguniang Cemetery, police and volunteers have been finding the rounds telling vendors to leave, but to no avail.

"We've been telling them for more than 20 years. This is the first time we were asked to leave. We are only trying to make a living," a vendor said in Filipino, referring to give her name.

An unusual of setting up a table for their goods, she said her husband just brought a narrow chair which they could easily carry should they need to leave.

Children join fray

Children have joined the entrepreneurial spirit around selling packs of junk food. Promo peruses of food chains also roam the cemeteries carrying their products.

In Manila, vending was not prohibited but controlled.

Vendors were allowed to do business inside the Manila North Cemetery, the country's biggest public cemetery.

They were issued special permits. But we must them to stay away from the main road so that they would not obstruct the flow of people," said Adel Khan, chief of the Manila Cemetery Bureau.

Khan vending has become a part of the commemoration of All Saints' Day, the day chose to all Jose'ondes.

"This is for the people's convenience. The cemetery is so big that it would be very hard for them to leave to go out to buy food," said Khan. North Cemetery is operating 24 hours a week.

Khan said that City Hall issued roughly 400 permits to vendors for P1,344 each. Food chains that needed bigger spaces had to pay around P6,000.

But Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chief Bayani Fernando said it was unlawful to issue permits to vendors.

"The Supreme Court has declared that the roads are beyond the commerce of man," Fernando said in his weekly radio program on dzBB.

He stressed, "Nobody has the right to give permits to these ones, do not sell anything on the streets and sidewalks, which are exclusively for motorists and pedestrians."

13th fire hits Metro in 5 days

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ANOTHER fire hit Metro Manila, reducing to ashes a two-story house in Caloocan City and destroying at least P1 million in property.

It was the 13th incident in five days, during which 11 people died.

The house started burning at about 6 a.m. when flames were seen coming out of its second floor.

The house on Pantry Alley Lot 9, Sunflowers Village in Bagumbayan Avenue was owned by Imelda Olivera, investigator SFO2 Leslie Crisostomo said.

Arriving quickly were firemen, 40, and her three children were sleeping in the attic on the ground floor when fire broke out.

Unoccupied room

Her other daughter, who occupied the bedroom where the fire began, had left for Cavite the night.

Nobody was reported injured. But a nearby house was slightly damaged by the fire.

The cause of the fire had yet to be determined but probers said they were looking at the possibility that it was electrical in origin.

Crisostomo said fire had left for Cavite might have left some appliances inside her room switched on.

But Olivera told investigators that she had switched off all appliances in the house before she left.

On Friday, 11 members of a household in Quezon City perished in the worst of the recent fires.

Alleged robber, 18-year boy in riot catch up to All Souls' Day

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AN ALLEGED robber met his end in an encounter with police beside the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City early yesterday morning.

The still unidentified suspect was killed in a shootout involving members of the Southern Police District Special Weapons and Tactics team at about 1:30 a.m. in front of the McDonald's restaurant on S. Bonifacio Avenue, Barangay Bf Homes.

Police said three motorists Raoul Almeda, 37, of 26 Bells Bayan Street, San Francisco, Solano, Laguna, was waiting for a ride in front of the fast food joint when the suspect tried to grab his motorcycle.

When Murphy put up a fight, the suspect shot him in the face and hip with a .38-cal. revolver, police said.

Patrolling policemen saw the commotion and immediately responded.

Seeing the lawmen, the suspect reportedly opened fire at the policemen, prompting them to shoot back, killing the suspect.

Police recovered 9 spent rounds, missing two subscriber identification modules (SIM) cards and six spent shells from the suspect.

Murphy was taken to the Medical Center Muntinlupa for treatment.

Over in Malabon City, a police officer shot dead an 18-year-old boy when two groups of clashing teenagers turned against him after he reportedly intervened and tried to pacify them.

Police Insp. Angelito Ermino of the Malabon City police precinct 10 himself to colleagues in the city police station after he killed Jose Andrew de Guzman, 18, in Barangay Potrero, it was reported yesterday.

Ermino and other policemen were on patrol when they came across a rumble involving about 30 youths at the corner of Del Monte Avenue and Tanong Road at about 2:30 a.m.

The warring teenagers were shouting empowered swears and throwing bottles and stones at one another, police added.

Ermino and his fellow policemen approached the teenagers to pacify them, but this made them turn targets.

Police said members of the warring groups started throwing bottles and stones at them.

Ermino was hit with a stone in the head, forcing him to shoot De Guzman, police said.

De Guzman was brought to the Dagumeng Bayan ng Malabon where he died while undergoing treatment.

The police have been on high alert and have increased patrols all over Metro Manila because of the approach of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

The deaths came on the eve of the nation remembering its dead.

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Bulk of OFW inflows 'unproductive'

ADB-funded study says money went to excessive consumption

By Ronnel W. Domingo

OVERSEAS Filipino workers are officially rendering an average of at least $7 billion a year, but most of these were used for excessive consumption rather than invested to make the money grow and serve as a driver of economic reform.

That was the finding of a study made through a $150,000 technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank that was approved in November 2003.

The report, titled Enhancing the Efficiency of Overseas Workers Remittances, identified how "migrant working" developing countries like the Philippines could improve the flow of remittances and maximize their impact on social and economic progress.

The study also showed that in 2003, $7.4 billion in remittances were recorded to have flowed through formal channels in the Philippines.

But the amount was believed to be only half of value sent annually (sent or received), due to most of transfers made through unregulated channels.

Based on a limited survey carried out as part of the study, 89 percent of the formal flows entered through commercial banks. The availability of safe, reliable and affordable means of sending money—such as cellular phones and smart cards...has reduced the use of unregulated channels.

To improve further the efficiency of remittances to the country, the study suggested for the government to take bilateral initiatives in the opening of remittance windows for Philippine banks or remittance centers in host countries.

Such move is expected to enhance competition, drive costs down, and encourage more remittances through the formal sector.

Another suggestion was to enable OFWs with irregular status to have access to banking or other formal remittances, such as allowing the use of identity cards issued by Philippine consular offices for opening bank accounts.

Still another area for the government to engage on with host governments for the purpose of facilitation of workers' academic and work experience, aside from improving local education and empowering it with skills training.

From there, the study said OFW remittances needed to be linked with efforts to develop the economy, considering that opportunities relating to this were already present in the country.

- Two-thirds of OFWs come from the provinces, which suggested that consistently based remittances such as rural banks, cooperatives, and micro finance institutions could be used to link remittances to development.
- The volume and continuity of remittances received by commercial banks meant such money could be used for developmental purposes through securitization where funds backed by future remittances are made available.
- Empowerment organiza-

FOLD TO

Banking on Mt. Diwalwal to ease fiscal woes

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DOST-Mt. Diwalwal (empty the power) but part of gold at the end of the rainbow that will solve the country's fiscal problems and public debt.

President Macapagal-Arroyo thinks so, which is why the government is rushing to consolidate its control of the 8,100-hectare mine site in Mindanao that has iconic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri believes has potentially more gold than the whole of Baguio, the Philippines' gold capital.

"Diwalwal, which rose from Davao to Agusan, is reported to have $10 billion worth of gold potential. Theoretically, that is plenty of money to pare down the national government debt of $55 billion to total public sector debt of $59 billion," Neri said in a briefing in Malacañang.

President Arroyo included the exploitation of Mt. Diwalwal among the new wealth sources identified in the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan over the next six years.

But even before Speaker Jose de Venecia cited Diwalwal as the top priority in the revitalization of the Philippine mining sector, former Intelligence chief Victor Corpus had already branded Diwalwal as a pot of gold for the government based on reports from military personnel deployed in the area.

A source said that the Pres-ident had long wanted to fun-

B-One

Peso seen to recover in 2005

By Doris C. Dizon

THE PESO may climb back to an average of $1:$0 against the US dollar next year, benefiting from a likely rebound in the Japanese yen and revaluation of the Chinese yuan, Standard Chartered Bank projected.

John Calvelo, Asian Bank's London-based chief economist who was in town to launch his new book and to brief investors, said in an interview with the business that the local currency would strengthen next year alongside other regional currencies.

"We're forecasting the yen to go to 102. We're also forecasting the renminbi will be revalued probably next year, certainly over the next few months," he said.

Calvelo said Chinese currency revaluations would likely mean the renminbi, also known as yuan, by 4.5 percent against the US dollar and go into bankers' accounts with the euro, yen and the dollar.

"So then if the dollar is weaker after that, the renminbi will rise against the dollar. So if the renminbi is going up, certainly the yen will go up and so I think you'll see currencies in the region move up as well, including the Philippine peso," he said.

He said the bank's forecast of $1:$0 for the peso was based on the expected regional development, but he noted that the local currency would also be affected by domestic factors such as the government's fiscal program.

A credit rating downgrade by international rating agency would bring backlashes on the local currency, he noted.

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Bank lending to farm sector seen declining

By Dona C. Dumlao

BSP: lending to the agriculture and agrarian reform is showing down, reflecting the inability of the banks to fulfill our loan funds beyond the minimum required by the Agri-Agra Law, which is 25 percent of their loan portfolio.

Commercial banks and thrift banks were failed to meet the minimum requirement while to some extent, "short call" or alternative modes were used to comply.

A recent report of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that as of March 31, this year, the whole banking system accounted 26.26 percent of its total loanable funds or P1.049 billion for compliance with the Agri-Agra Law. This compliance rate was lower than 27.11 percent a year ago.

Breaking down the total volume during this period, the banking sector allocated 9.7 percent of its total portfolio for the agriculture sector, slightly below the 10 percent minimum requirement.

The lady was better in the loan sector with 16.55 percent, or higher than the minimum requirement of 25 percent.

The members were lower than rem-ago levels of 9.74 percent for the agriculture sector and 17.36 percent for the agriculture sector.

While the banking system as a whole reported a 26.26-percent compliance, slightly above the 25 percent minimum, regular commercial banks and thrift banks fell short with respective rates of 19.39 percent and 23.36 percent.

Universal banks and rural banks showed the overall compliance with respective rates of 26.03 percent and 46.75 percent.

The amount lent to agriculture and agrarian sectors during the period was the least drawn as follows: universal banks (P729.5 billion); commercial banks (P139.79 billion); thrift banks (P128.87 billion); and, rural banks (P52.61 billion).

As some banks found it difficult to meet for viable borrowers, they resorted to rentor-allocation.

The universal, commercial and reinvested banks committed P44 billion or 0.42 percent of total alternative compliance to development incentives under Republic Act 7721. Under this law, which liberalized the entry of foreign banks, development loans such as those for educational institutions and the Philippine Peace Accord Implementation Fund (PAIF) could be availed.

Another P7.5 billion was committed by universal and commercial banks to accredited borrowers.

The BSP, however, preferred the development incentive under the 7721, with P34.1 billion or 78.3 percent of their compliance going to this alternative.

The new preferred alternative was the investment in Kmp Bioscience Services Inc. through Rural Bankers Agricultural Development Co. during the first six months of 2004.

The total loanable funds in the agriagra sector dropped by 1.2 percent to P1.04 trillion in March from P1.057 billion in December last year. However, it was higher than the P974.14 billion released in March a year ago.

Investors doubt gov't ability to implement plans —Morgan Stanley

By Michelle P. Remo

INTERNATIONAL investment bank Morgan Stanley said foreign investors were doubting the Philippine government's ability to fully implement its long-term economic development plans.

In its latest paper on Southeast Asian economies, Morgan Stanley said, President Macapagal-Arroyo, in her new six-year term, would likely succeed in her efforts to improve revenue collection, a vital component of her administration's promise to stave the country's fiscal problems. However, it also said investors were doubtful that the President would be able to fully achieve her administration's economic agenda.

"President Arroyo has a fresh mandate and is likely to secure a first round victory in her efforts to dissuade and enlarge the tax base. However, she is very much unloved. Moreover, investors are fundamentally skeptical about her ability to tackle larger issues facing the country's politics and economy," said Morgan Stanley in its paper entitled "Ole Europe View of Southeast Asia."

Morgan Stanley said foreign investors were swifter to limit their capital in Southeast Asian markets—Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines—because of the belief that Chi na's economic growth would soon begin slowing down.

The region has managed to preserve its global share of manufacturing exports as it is beginning to embrace economic diversification and positive political economy reform," it said.

Morgan Stanley said investors considered the country an "emerging market" but that they have yet to see concrete progress that would substantially reverse investor sentiment.

The country's fiscal problems, characterized by a gaping budget deficit and ballooning debt, is one of the major economic hurdles that the government is trying to overcome. The budget deficit is expected to hit P197.3 billion by the end of this year, while its debt burden P3.5 trillion as of the third half. The consolidated public sector debt—which covers debts of the national government, local government units and state-owned firms—stood at P5.8 trillion as of end-2003.

The latest administration is bond proposed to implement its proposed revenue-enhancement measures that were considered a crucial test to the ability of the Philippine government to achieve the medium-term goals of wiping out the budget deficit and reducing the country's debts.

Making Mindanao the 'Land of Fulfillment'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MINDANAO is known by many names—"The Land of Opportunity", "Land of Promise" and even "The 2nd Frontier."

Perhaps an appropriate addition is "Land of Missed Opportunities" due to the many painful setbacks—such as armed conflict and extreme poverty—that harmful development efforts in the past decades from bearing much fruit.

Non-government organizations such as the Philippine Business for Social Progress, however, are not about to let these setbacks stop them from pursuing their vision of a better Mindanao. And Mindanao truly needs all the help it can get.

Mindanao is the poorest of the three major islands. It has the worst poverty statistics, with close to half living below the poverty level. The poverty incidence is even worse in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), where 62 percent of the people are considered poor.

People in Mindanao also die earlier than those in Luzon and Visayas and there are more infant deaths. Every school-age children are usually ill-nourished, dead of those who go to school, only a few actually finish high school, much less college.

The deeply Mindanao being blessed with vast natural resources. The best climate in the country, oil reserves and excellent sources of deep hydroelectricity.

A long history of armed conflict and low investments have also affected many of the people and the land, however. It has led Mindanao from ranking to one of the poorest regions.

Meeting people's needs

This, as early as 30 years ago, the PBSP organized in Mindanao to represent a better regional in the elite much of the people. It recently came up with a road-up plan to enable the region to join in the economic progress of the rest of the country.

The program calls for massive investments in the delivery of basic social services, such as health and education. This is to provide Mindanao with a good of human capital that will be workforce-ready for tomorrow.

It also involves investments in power, roads and improvement of institutions, particularly the local government units, to help them deal with issues of poverty, development and peace.

These investments, backed with the commitment of PBSP and its members, are making a difference in the region. Over the past four years, the PBSP's Mindanao Regional Operations has slowly earned the title in favor of Mindanao.

FEATURE

According to the PBSP Mindanao regional office's four-year investment record report, some 3,927 adult learners have gone through literacy classes, still far short of PBSP's target of 33,333 but still on its way to achieving the goal. Funds are earmarked for the continuing improvement of NGO capabilities to manage literacy programs and training of literacy teachers.

Improving literacy

At some as 15 literacy centers across Mindanao have been set up to serve as permanent venues for literacy classes.

Of the 19,713 children and youth who did not succeed to help, as many as 13,289 have already been helped through improved capacity of schools to absorb new enrollees, supplemental feeding, transportation support and improvement of the parents' earning capacities to support school needs.

Some 1,000 parents have undergone vocational skills training to help them keep their children in school, in the hope that more of Mindanao's youths will end up with college degrees.

The PBSP also trains 66,000 students to benefit from the establishment of science laboratories and the provision of textbooks, reference materials and additional computer facilities.

Even the teachers were included in the investments, such that more teachers were motivated to teach science.

Health was also a primary target, with PBSP eyeing to assist 42,200 households, or 16 percent of the 422,900 households that need to have access to primary health care and health facilities.

PBSP has already assisted 27,200 households through immunizations, medical and dental services, installation of potable water systems, sanitation of community health volunteers and school nurses, and training of professional health practitioners in managing infectious diseases.

Livelihood programs

With long-term sustainability in mind, PBSP has also zeroed in on improving the income of the rural population, which accounts for the bulk of Mindanao.

Of the targeted 1,200 households, 920 beneficiaries were provided capital, facilities and training.

As a result, 8,110 ailing households in eight communities now derive additional income from drying fish and cooking salt.

Some 16 seaweed farmers working on 12.5 hectares of seaweed farms were likewise trained in production technology.

Training in upland farming was also extended to farmers. PBSP coordinators and 56 duplex women were helped to pass their knowledge on cooking and producing soap with the assistance of the Department of Trade and Industry.

PBSP members have committed to continue pulling in funds to use the ambitious projects through, said sec Mindanao because not just a land of promise, but a land of fulfillment.

Left-right: from the village of Pangpangan in Esperanza City, switches on the lights on a map of Mindanao to symbolize the energization of remote parts of the island by the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy (Amore), a program of the US Agency for International Development (Usaid), that is being implemented by US-based NGO Winrock International, the Department of Energy, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Hivos Philippines. With Sarah are (from left) Pangapuan Barangay captain Modigan Jalani, US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone, Usaid Administrator Andrew Natsios and ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin.

A decade after: BIMP-Eaga

THE BRUNEI Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) is Asia's largest yet youngest sub-region born in Mindanao. It is a 1.6 million square-kilometer growth triangle with a population of 197.3 million.

Trying to zoom in 10 years back, the BIMP-Eaga has since surprised observers time and has steered itself into full recovery with various interlocking efforts.

A decade after its inception on March 26, 1994, BIMP-Eaga is now a hub of synergy surging forward to new heights—such as the 351-96-percent increase in Mindanao's tourist arrivals from 1995 to 1996, more than P5.2 billion in investments in the island region and in 2000 alone and the 17.5-percent rise in Mindanao exports to BIMP-Eaga countries in 2003. Brunei Secretary Pehin Dr Lim Jock Seng, senior consultant for Mindanao and Secretary Jesus Dureza, special envoy to BIMP-Eaga and presidential assistant for Mindanao, supervised ceremony that the sub-region had several positives to consolidate building and was now entering the consolidation phase of revitalization.

"The Philippine government envisions this sub-region as an important mechanism to accelerate growth and reduce the poverty level in Mindanao which, in turn, are anticipated to bring about lasting peace and sustained development. We believe that this sub-region has been successful in no less than we have noted an increase in the number of BIMP-Eaga-related events conducted in Mindanao and Palawan," Secretary Dureza said at the 11th BIMP-Eaga Ministerial Meeting held in Davao City last week.

Mindanao, being the hub and the birthplace of the BIMP-Eaga, resident immediate benefits from its participation in the sub-region and the past decade's efforts. Despite the Asian financial crisis and isolated peace and order issues in

one island, Mindanao continues to achieve major gains. In the country's food basket and a globally competitive island. Mindanao draws a steady increase in exports to Eaga countries.

Air and sea linkages

THE MOST key months will witness an increase in air and sea linkages in the BIMP area. The opening of new air and sea links agro will immensely ease trade and travel activities between the neighboring areas. There is the Puerto Princesa-Kota Kinabalu air route and plans for a direct Cebu-Manila-Princesa-Davao-Zamboanga-Brunei-Singapore-Australia air route to Kinabalu flight are being worked out. The bi-weekly cargo and passenger air trip is being done by Lionair Laying interspace in partnership with our local Small Business air ways.

Also, the Sulpicio Lines' flag vessel, the M/V Bell'O Strait is soon to set out covering the Brunei-Sandakan-Bintang, Indonesia circuit. This will substantially enhance the movement of people from Bitung, Indonesia to the southern parts of Mindanao.

These transport enhancement projects are in line with regional efforts to revitalize the BIMP-Eaga, a major component of the Tri-Sectoral Growth Triangle of the Southeast Asian Ministerial Development Council (Asean) Ministers.

The projects will make travel easier and its more convenient, safe and accessible for traders and tourists in Mindanao.

More trade ties

EARLIER this year, efforts to encourage ties between China and the Philippine Eaga focus areas of Mindanao and Palawan heightened. Earlier, key officials of the Chinese Embassy and the Mindanao Economic Council agreed to establish trade link between China and the Eaga. Port Internal Logistics Flag Ops-to-Asean Eaga is scheduled to be held in November this year in Gaung Si, Nanning, China. ASEAN-Eaga informational booth will feature agro products services such as business matching and coordinating for Eaga business people wishing to do business in the region.

Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), a German donor agency, has agreed to fund a technical assistance project that will harness cross border trade and investment facilitation within the BIMP-Eaga.

The Northern Territory of Australia, Darwin, hosted the Senior Officials Meeting last Oct. 21 to 24. The Philippine Secretariat Bureau Council also participated in this meeting where they outlined

Banking on Mt. Diwalwal . . .

From page B1

trends, the government's takeover of Diwalwal and local advocates encountered her to seek until after the elections to douse speculation that she would use Diwalwal resources to bankroll her campaign.

With a fresh mandate, Mrs and the President was ready to take a more aggressive stance in Diwalwal, "But the objective is to put law and order in that area. Next, we have to get private sector money to explore and develop it," Mrs said.

Mrs said the government would invest at least P200 million in road to jumpstart exploration studies in Diwalwal. "It is a pot of gold. But first, we must establish firm mining terms are in there," Mrs said.

Mrs said the government was now close to resolving the ownership and peace and order issues that have bedeviled Mt. Diwalwal for many years. Last October, President Arroyo declared Diwalwal a mineral reservation area through Proclamation No. 297.

Based on ongoing discussions on Diwalwal's ownership structure, the government, through Diwalwal Mineral Development Corp. (DMDC), will control 70 percent of the prodigious mine site with 18 percent going to small-scale miners and 12 percent to big mining players (Mbmc, Mdico and Bulliones) that have joined in the gold rush earlier.

"They were given chance in exploration in the area in recognition of the time they have invested, explored and established their claims there," Mrs said.

Resolving the ownership dispute in Diwalwal, Mrs said, was the key to bringing the peace in Diwalwal, which has been a bedrock of violence in the town of Monkayo with around 4,000 miners reportedly killed during the period. "With no more ownership issues, there will be no more deaths and then we can bring in exploration," Mrs said.

Aside from the golden bonanza, Mrs said the government was compelled to take bold steps in Diwalwal because of the serious environmental problem as "mercury was seeping in all rivers and we were afraid it would go into the food chain," the dying number of fishings, and information that gold from the site has been used to finance the activities of Muslim and communist rebels.

Bulk of OFW inflows . . .

From page B1

ideas, or micro-finance institutions could help income programs on the use of savings, investments, credit access, or putting up business for OFWs and their families;

+ Local governments could issue bonds, guaranteed by their internal revenue allotments, to be offered as savings or investment vehicles to OFWs from these communities for funding local infrastructure;

+ Investment and economic activities by Filipino associations overseas should also be encouraged from the social and economic linkages inflows from this source going into development projects.

The Philippines has become the third largest migrant-sending country in the world next to Mexico and India, with more than 7.1 million Filipinos working overseas.

Around 2,700 Filipinos leave daily for foreign countries as legal migrants, temporary contract-based workers or simply as tourists looking to find work in developed countries.

MRT 3 needs new trains to carry more commuters

By Clarissa S. Bedoy

METRO Rail Transit Corp., the private consortium that built and leased out MRT 3 to the government, said the railway system needed more trains to upgrade service.

This would require roughly P2.5 billion in additional investments.

Robert John Sobrepeña, president of the Pilipinas Kanlaon Group—the leader of the consortium—told MRTC had been telling the Department of Transportation that additional trains were needed to the volume of passengers commuters to increase.

Volume is quickly outstripping capacity, thus, putting more on the system, according to Sobrepeña.

Last week, MST malfunctioned for three consecutive days.

On Tuesday, a computer glitch at Ayala Avenue Augustanes.

On Wednesday, a power fluctuation forced a train to stop and on Thursday, power capped.

"The MRT 3's ridership is already running beyond the projected capacity of 350,000. It would need additional coaches and we have been telling this to the government," said Sobrepeña.

He said the system would need about 24 more rolling stocks, each costing about $3.5 million.

Sobrepeña said the projected ridership for 2005, early this year to achieve its ridership target, which MRTC was willing to subsidize to improve performance of the 16-kilometer railway running from North Edsa to Taft Avenue in Pasay.

About 372,000 to 400,000 use the MRT every day.

The purchase of additional rolling stocks, according to the PL Estate official, was also under the Oas-Alfonso extension of MRT 3 to Muntinlupa.

Sobrepeña said MRTC had asked Malacañang and the justice department to reconsider its offer to undertake the expansion.

He said allowing MRTC to do the link-up of MRT 3 with the Line 1 of Light Railway Transit was the cheapest and fastest option.

He said MRTC had proposed to do the expansion for $150 million, which was lower compared to the recent cost estimates of the government.

"We are ready to move on the project if the government rebids it, it would be more expensive and would take longer," said Sobrepeña.

Per term, he said MRTC was willing to buy the additional trains then even before the expansion would start, just so MRT 3's service would be up to par.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said his department had recommended the purchase of additional trains.

"There is going to be increased maintenance cost if no trains would be added," he said.

Sobrepeña assured, however, that despite the numerous malfunctions, the railway system does not pose risks to the passengers.

From Pavarotti to Gloriamaris

WE DO not know what had gotten into socialite Ramona Acosta but we learn confidentially that the impresario who brought Pavarotti and Bocelli into the local theaters has now acquired majority control of the Gloriamaris chain of restaurants.

According to the grapevine, Acosta had been recently contemplating to acquire a franchise to set up one of those branches of the fast-dining Chinese restaurant whose last brand that the Cuneta family was entertaining offers to sell their majority shareholding in the Gloriamaris holding company.

It is not clear how the Acosta acquisition would now affect the Gloriamaris plan to eventually list in the exchange's SME board.

One party that had expressed interest in Gloriamaris was the Bancasiya Priest Clothes Association's Mutual Aguinaldo.

But Aguinaldo, seeing he'll be with his feet fixed require, which also includes Mount Pinatubo, eventually thumbed down the investment proposal to restrain info first dining.

Speakers, whose Kasuan battery business had one guess not on a multi-level account sign with creditor banks, that down rumors that he plan to feel the family's extension but fixed holdings in the local stock exchange.

"When listed, management always chose after genuinely excuse to support the stock price," Aguinaldo said. "It is always an option for the near generation, but not in my lifetime."

Stalled at SLF

THE REHABILITATION of the South Luzon Expressway from Alabang to Santa Rosa has been stalled yet again.

According to the grapevine, the Metro Iloilo Northeast Development and Investment Corp. has failed to wake up on time with the balance of P30 million out of the P1.03 million it had agreed to pay Jesus Urquico Espiritu to convey the right to undertake the expressway project.

The word from the grapevine is that the Northeast consortium has been plagued with infighting among its partners, with original proponent Espiritu reportedly having had a falling out with Philippine Development Bank and ex-PSE official Ruben Almadro having replaced by the vendors of Enrico Ayuyao and former Bureau Underwriters Joel Imbuzo.

Riverview
Resort & Conference Center
Calamba - by the Riverside
ROOM RATES FOR DAY TOUR
P 1,250 - Deluxe Room
P 1,750 - Jr. Executive Room
P 2,000 - Executive Room
ROOM RATES FOR 24 HRS
P 2,500 - Platinum
P 3,000 - Gold
P 4,000 - Silver

PNOC to draw oil from Malampaya in '06

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. expects to draw the first oil from the Malampaya Deep Gas-to-Power Project off Northwest Palawan in April or May of 2006.

This, despite the consortium's decision to abandon the development of the oil reserves, concentrating instead on developing the natural gas.

"The consortium has definitely concluded that they will no longer pursue (the development of) the oil reserves. The government will now have to find a way to exploit the reserves," said Eduardo Hidalgo, president of PNOC-EC parent firm PNOC.

Former PNOC-EC president Joaquin Rosaroso said in an interview in late September that the state firm was in talks with a local group for a possible partnership to develop oil reserves in the Malampaya gas find in northwestern Palawan.

Mendoza said the government would have to work quickly on the terms of the oil development for the Malampaya find.

The foreign members of the consortium—consortium, Shell Philippines Exploration BV (Spex) and Chevron Texaco Philippines Inc. decided earlier in the year not to undertake the oil part of the project, due to insufficient yield.

Spex and Chevron Texaco, both multinational with having interests worldwide, explored the option to sell the parts of the world, demand the Malampaya reserves of between 25 million and 30 million barrels of crude or too small to be given much of their attention, it is said.

But since the government's policy had always been to develop indigenous energy sources, Mendoza had earlier said that the Department of Energy would have to look for other firms that might want to undertake the development of the Malampaya oil reserves.

"We have to do this new contract very quickly because of technical conditions. We need to announce the investor that we can pull out (of the area). We should have a contract as quickly as possible. The longer we put it off (the firm) we can get," he said.

He said the DOE wouldn't go for local firm for such, in the project, although foreign entities were also welcome, considering the high degree of technical expertise that the project required.

Heard through the grapevine

BOBA Chic Madrigal-Collados is contributing excellent after-sales commercial buildings right off the Sen. Cesar Cuneta LRT entrance a few seconds from Skydeck—giving the occasion.

The new BMW 3-series, on the other hand, still have relieved engine option.

The bus line and the bankers

(Plus, a few words on the educational qualities of merienda)

Mr. Lopez sat jailed and expedient in the corner. With him, fifty hard-nosed veteran bus drivers, conductors, and ticket inspectors. They normally spent their days inside tons of diesel-propelled metal, crawling through the traffic-bane Jolo-crusts of the metropolis. None of them relished the idea of being cadavered together that day, for of all things, a seminar.

But orders were orders. And not being inclined to disobey, Mr. Lopez and his companions settled for corralling compliance instead.

It was around this point that we stepped into the room.

We were a team of trainers from iBank's Center for Learning. Our days were spent giving talks to bank executives, preparing training programs, and other developmental activities. Common ground, at first contact, was as rare as an empty seat on an MRT train during rush hour.

Prior to this encounter, the only words we had ever shared with bus drivers like Mr. Lopez were "Para po sa kanto" or "Manong lapad po" or perhaps at most "Pa-dacha po ako sa Cubao."

But our client, the owner of the bus line, asked us if we could help train his people. If we could smooth out the rough edges in their work attitude, help them work as a team and deliver better service. We were to help them see their jobs as something more than a means to make money. In a day, we were expected to make them fall in love with their work.

We crunched to what we considered our top secret ice breaker: snack packs.

Nothing fancy, mostly be told. Sandwiches, chips, biscuits, fruit juice.

But any tip and crunch dry crumbs, the trainer began to warm up.

What they had all assumed would be a lecture was instead a dialogue. It didn't take as long to understand the frustration brought about by ferocious traffic conditions and a daily diet of carbon monoxide. For their part, they saw how commuters would be rightfully indignant if a bus reserved two seats for a pursuit of more passengers.

The day progressed and through our fashion of activities and exercises (and loads of merienda), they went from not caring whether they stepped on, to stepping into, others' shoes. They weren't getting about paradigms. They were exploring solutions.

The session drew to a close, but not their enthusiasm. They eagerly posed for pictures, thanked us for our time, and looked forward to the next day.

Hey, Bank, can give you answers, but how many are truly interested in you and your business?

If this doesn't sound like the kind of relationship you share with your bank, it's time we at iBank a try. We have a snack pack or two waiting for you.

iBank
International Exchange Bank
TAKING RELATIONSHIPS TO HEART

Globe targets 13M subscribers; Smart ends Q3 with 17.8M

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom is targeting to grow its subscriber base to about 13 million by year's end through several innovations and aggressive investments in marketing.

Fourie rival Smart Communications Inc. had booked about 17.8 million subscribers as of Aprils Corp. and Singapore Telecom's.

Globe said it spent about a billion pesos in marketing and promotions to sign up new subscribers and keep existing ones loyal during the third quarter. As a result, the second largest telecom company suffered a 39-percent drop in net income to P2.10 billion in the third quarter from the same period last year.

Globe said its investments in the third quarter coupled with debt prepayment, should allow it to accelerate growth starting this fourth quarter.

During the third quarter, Globe introduced G-Cash and Globe Telebayan as it could tap a bigger segment of the market, including the 47 billion annual remittances of 8 million Filipinos working overseas.

"The company is better positioned to fully support mass-market initiatives going forward," according to Globe president Gerardo Menzi.

Smart's aggressive marketing and continued investment at home it to add about 1.7 million customers during the third quarter, or about on par with the subscriber take-up during the second quarter, when electronic spending helped boost the wireless business.

Smart said it did not consider some 1.1 million subscribers it had terminated as part of its progress during the second quarter.

Globe said that starting the third quarter, it adopted a stricter policy of counting subscribers, breaking them only when there has been no generate outgoing texts or calls for 45 days. It said it has more than 26,000 customers from its mobile service called TXT launched in Hong Kong in August.

The latest smart innovation is part of a grand plan to cash in on the overseas Filipino worker and their remittances.

Menzi said it was targeting to boost the between 340,000 and 35,000 Filipinos overseas to its TXT program for the year.

The PLDT group said it was looking to offer TXT in other Asian countries as well as Europe, Middle east to Singapore and Italy, where there is a huge number of Filipinos.

Abrams said that with the increased use and innovations, mobile subscribers would likely exceed 27 percent of the population by year's end.

"We were projecting 27 percent of the population by [a]round. I think it would be even more than that. Now once we see between 40 and 50 percent of the population becoming mobile subscribers," Abrams added.

INDEX TRACKER FUND

Philippine Stock Exchange president Francisco Lim Jr(4), Bank of the Philippine Islands chief operating officer Aurelio Montinola III and PSE Chair Alicia Bala Arroyo lead the launching of the Philippine Index Fund (PIF), the country's first and only index tracker fund. Managed by the BPI Asset Management and Trust Group, the PIF easily outperformed all active equity mutual fund returns with its 12.24 percent as of Sept. 24, 2004. With a minimum investment of only P50,000 during the initial offer period, investors are offered only one typical diversified portfolio of 15 stocks comprising the Phisix. The low minimum initial investment amount is expected to tap a larger retail market of long-term equity investors while at the same time creating greater awareness on equity investing among small individual investors.

Philrealty in talks on Boni projects

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY developer Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp. (Philrealty) is in serious talks with a number of investors on a possible joint-venture housing project at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Philrealty president Jonathan Ravani said the company has received and interest from Metro Pacific Corp. (MPC) subsidiary Landco Pacific Corp. and Investment one Enterprises Property on the prospective project.

Once a fully-written its loans with creditors through the implementation of a court-approved rehabilitation plan, Philrealty will be left with three lots in Fort Bonifacio.

Two of those lots are over looking the Manila Golf Club. Both measure roughly 5,421 square meters and may be developed into condominiums. The cost of developing one building may reach roughly P600 million, Ravani said.

Philrealty also owns another 1,000-square-meter lot near The Fort, which can be developed into a mixed-use project.

Should it secure an agreement with a potential investor, Philrealty estimated it might cost between P1 billion and P1.3 billion in revenues from the sale of a project.

Philrealty said it was in the process of issuing out the terms of a possible joint venture with any of the investors it was in talks with. Landco owns three malls—at Cybernetians in Sucat Ext., in Imperial mall in Lawton in Quezon. Landco also recently announced its P1.4-billion worth-of property development in Batangas, Batangas, the Tuscanes de Punta Fuego, which boasts of 100 meters of white sand and clear waters.

It is also thinking of further expanding Pueblo Verona Leisure Farms, a 53-hectare residential-resort-type community in Silang, Cavite.

Meanwhile, Manila South port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) but Philrealty said ICTSI was not involved in the talks. Ravani also said in other property assets were open to a possible sale. It has pieces of property in Tagaytay, Laoang and La Union.

SEC reviews thrift banks' bid

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) will review a proposal by the Chamber of Thrift Banks to allow pre-need firms to invest their trust funds in time or savings deposits in thrift banks.

"There's always room for reviewing (rules) as they crop up," SEC Chief Fe Barin said.

Barin, however, suggested that the proponents organize their deposit rules for pre-need trust funds be amended to refer to "banks in general" instead of specifying commercial banks and government-owned banks as the investment vehicles.

The group wanted to revise the rules for a more equitable treatment of players in the banking system, arguing that thrift banks in general were in sound financial health and should be given equal opportunity to answer real banks.

Under existing pre-need rules, pre-need trust fund investments are limited to savings deposits and treasury-type bonds of commercial banks with satisfactory ratings.

Sales of pre-need firms grew 20.4 percent to the first eight months to P25.9 billion from P21.09 billion during the same period last year, with pension funds leading the sales.

Total number of plans sold, however, dipped slightly by 1.6 percent to 135,033 from 168,116.

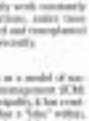
An SEC official in last last that the sales boom is primarily due to the recovery in the economy. For the total plans sold, pension plans grew by 33.4 percent to P14.38 billion from January to August 31st. P10.61 billion during the same period last year.

Education plans were a far second, growing 8.85 percent to P9.2 billion from P8.44 billion. Life plans increased by 4.45 percent to P2.111 billion from P2.02 billion.

In terms of number of plans sold, pension plans grew 9.67 percent for the eight-month period to 130,646 plans from 172,785. Education plans fell 6.66 percent to 92,006 while life plans dipped 10.24 percent to 62,867.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

18% GDP growth



NO FREE LUNCH

Carlos E. Bulatao

PHILIP cast governmental targets a relatively modest 5-6 percent growth in gross domestic product (GDP) by 2010, a rate which most flight-to-see Manila has been enjoying in every popping 12-percent average annual GDP growth over the last 10 years. I refer to Xiamen in southern China, an island municipality of 1.5 million inhabitants from which a tidal-created part of the Filipino-Chinese community traces their roots. As if a reminder of this, one of the most imposing structures to greet you is the huge SM shopping mall, there is even a replica of Manila's Rizal monument in another part of town. Someone who had been to Xiamen in the early '90s never find none of the above. I could describe the transformation of the landscape was there in 1994. Here would describe the transformation of the city at anything short of phenomenal.

Clean and green

I met no one but city civil servants at a meeting of the Partnership for Environmental Management of the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA). The choice of Xiamen as host for the meeting was deliberate. It is now considered a model of how coastal and marine resources can be managed right. Xiamen, we were told, is one of the cleanest municipalities in China, and I could easily believe that. And apart from keeping them, it has also managed to keep green.

As part of the conference, participants were brought to the top of one of the town's skyscrapers to get a bird's-eye view of the entire Xiamen landscape, and indeed, one is no. Another thing that struck me was the absence of traffic and around the municipality use. One also immediately notices a sizable patch of forest on one part of the island, a stark contrast to the concrete jungle that the city would otherwise appear to be without all the greenery it's used.

Directly on the ground, the streets and sidewalks are clean, and garbage receptacles (but not within 10 meters of each other always

(Continued on page 5)

Earnings reports . . .

From page B1

analysts said the market showed strong third-quarter results at power utility Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) and property giant Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) but were bruised on the Philippine Stock Exchange to not profit.

Abra Valley of AB Capital Investors said that among the other issues tempering the market's response were worries of instability in the nation's the weakness of the peso and the uncertainties surrounding this week's US presidential election.

He said the market remained wary of the country's soaring wealth, citing despite the government's efforts to pass controversial measures.

(Continued on page 5)

Corruption survey no good

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Romulo C. Gonzaga

If 9000 just as well that the Syrians assured no space for the Corruption Perception Index 2004 released by Transparency International (TI) a couple of weeks ago. The index was no good, anyway.

Don't get the wrong. TI's worldwide fight against corruption has my full support.

The Filipino people can use all the help they can get to wage our campaign in government.

Besides, I have been a victim more than once, and so have most of my friends.

But I assure you the TI Corruption Perception Index.

CPI ranks the course of government corruption in 146 countries then, 133 countries around the world.

There simply is no way a valid worldwide survey can be conducted on such a broad subject as corruption.

For example, how does one respond to a question such as, "Which country is the most corrupt in Southeast Asia?" And, how can you add the responses?

A survey must be focused on a narrow issue.

For example, "How difficult/easy is it to get a business license?" Then, you can validly add the results.

Because perceptions have a short shelf life, a survey should cover a short period of time, say a week.

Otherwise, the responses at the start of the survey may already be stale by the end of the survey.

Finally, the respondents must be homogeneous.

The dossier of a Stone Belt statesman has entirely different views from the sojourner in Tondo.

If respondents around South-east Asia are asked to rank the extent of corruption in, say the Philippines (since countries don't self-rate), how will the results be? Not very valid.

But then, I thought that, perhaps, TI knows something I do not.

From the literature, I got TI's "three methodological tools." The methodology used in the CPI is described in publications, such as, "A data transformation is then performed on scores. This increases the standard deviation among all countries included in the CPI and avoids the process by which the resulting percentiles embargo results in a smaller distribution from year to year." Here is another one, "The confidence range is determined by a bootstrap [non-parametric] method, along which allows inferences to be drawn on the underlying precision of the results."

I gave up.

The CPI compiles 16 surveys around the world. TI has added apples and oranges and bananas and guavas on a worldwide scale.

If cracked these surveys scientifically framed, patching them up together simply results in a bigger flaw.

Eighteen wrongs do not make a right.

The 16 surveys cover close issues. One cannot add the results of a survey done three years on those made last year. Time is an important factor in any equation.

Which brings up the question: How assuming that the CPI is mathematically valid, which it is not, of what use is ranking the extent of corruption in 146 countries?

Ranking the extent of corruption from one country to another is pretty much like judging the gravity of a rape by the depth of the penetration.

As everyone knows, there is no such thing as a little bit of rape.

Retail to grow across Asia, forecast says

THE RETAIL sector will continue to post robust growth in Asia-Pacific for the second half of the year, according to the latest forecast of MasterCard International.

MasterCard said in its retail forecast that Singapore would lead the way, with an expected 16 percent year-on-year growth for the second half of the year.

Double digit growth was also expected from China (12 percent) and Taiwan (10.5 percent), followed closely by Thailand (9.8 percent), Hong Kong (9.5 percent) and Malaysia (8.5 percent).

In the Philippines, retail sales are envisioned to grow by 7 percent in the second half of 2004, and total sales value was expected to reach P912.3 billion.

Consumer confidence

The country enjoyed a superior score of 94.8 in the latest Mastermetrics of Consumer Confidence compared to its score in the preceding period of 76.3.

The improvement was largely attributed to a very positive outlook on regular income at 88 and a relatively neutral stance on the economy at 83.

Continuing a year in June and December, the Mastermetrics of Retail was launched in June 2003 by MasterCard as part of its knowledge leadership in Asia-Pacific.

It is among MasterCard's Mastermetrics suite of research initiatives, providing six-month forecasts of retail sales growth in 13 markets: Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

Dr. Frans Frederik Meng, economic advisor, Asia/Pacific, MasterCard International, said: "From the point of view of consumer spending and retail sales, however, the outlook is one of weakening strength in the region. Expectations of stronger income growth and better employment conditions clearly have more than compensated for higher interest rate expectations. This bodes well for retailers and the service sector generally."

Combining 10 years of retail sales data, factoring in the secular trend of growth of the retail industry, GDP outlook, and using the Mastermetrics of Consumer Confidence as an independent variable, an estimate of retail sales value was obtained for the same six-month horizon covered by the Mastermetrics of Consumer Confidence.

Market forecasts

+ China's retail sales are expected to grow at 12 percent for the near half of the year, with sales valued at 3.73 trillion Yuan. China consumers (79.9), although remain less optimistic when compared to six months ago (83.7), are still highly optimistic.

+ Retail sales in Hong Kong for the second half of the year are expected to rise to 9.5 percent year-on-year to reach HK$99 billion.

+ Retail sales in Indonesia for the second half of 2004 are expected to see year-on-year growth of 4.5 percent, with sales valued at 123.3 trillion rupiah.

+ The forecasted growth in retail sales for Japan is 3.8 percent, valued at ¥55.7 trillion for the near-six months ahead.

+ Korea's retail sales are supposed to see a growth of 2.6 percent to reach 86% trillion won in sales terms for the second half of the year. Korean consumer confidence continues to remain somewhat pessimistic at 48.7, with marginally optimistic sentiment on Regular Income.

+ Retail sales in Malaysia are expected to see an optimistic year-on-year growth in 8.5 percent, with a value of RM80 billion.

+ Singapore sales are expected to grow by 16 percent year-on-year, with total sales valued at an estimated S$33 billion.

+ Taiwan's retail sales are forecasted to growth by 10.5 percent, with total sales estimated to reach NT$2.555 billion.

+ Retail sales for the six-month period in Thailand are expected to grow by 9.8 percent, totaling B962.7 billion baht in value. Thailand's consumer confidence remained by optimism with a score of 60.2.

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chito Bunal-Formoso
Associate Editor Lisa B. Zulueta

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY IDU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Artists' watch towers rise in Bacolod

The structures symbolize artists from eight Visayan islands working with and learning from each other

Text by Carlos Conde
PDI Visayas Bureau
Photos by Melvin Calderon

BACOLOD CITY—Eight watch towers, symbolizing eight Visayan islands looking out for and working inspiration from each other, are rising in Bacolod City where 100 artists are converging Nov. 5-7.

The towers, which are developing into works of art created by the delegates of the eight islands, are being built at the Ilustre B. Encarnacion Elementary School in Bacolod City, the site of the Visayan Islands Visual Arts Exhibition and Conference (Visa Encon).

Visa Encon will see the convergence of artists from the islands of Negros, Guimaras, Panay, Masbate, Leyte, Cebu, Samar and Bohol.

The gathering hopes to be Visayan islands' first attempt to foster artist-to-artist dialogues, interaction activities, networking and cultural exchanges, while strengthening cooperation among visual art groups, conference chair Charlie Co says.

Visual method

Multi-awarded Negrense film director Peque Gallaga, who's conceptualized the watch towers, says in the video documentary built on the Visayan islands to prevent artists from man-made-ing elements.

Thus, the towers are being built to symbolize artists from the Visayan islands watching what each island is doing and learning from each other, Gallaga says.

THE VIVA meeting allows Visayan artists to interact through joint activities.

FULL color. Participating artists finish a mural for the festival.

UNMASKED. Painter Kenneth Cobonpue on his way to install his artwork at the exhibition area.

Artists' watch towers rise in Bacolod

HANGED MAN. A detail of Viernatch's tower.

From page C1

It is a very visual method of interaction because the building of the towers will be a collaborative effort of the artists from the different islands.

Many times, artists are left to work alone. But by working together, they can join forces and encourage each other, Gallaga says.

Each island in building a watch tower manifestation that will be 20M to height and within a 20 sq.m. area, says Milton Dacanay, director of the festival that will be part of the conference.

As part of the Viva Envoy, 36 out of 75 entries of Visayan artists have been selected to be part of a curated exhibit to open at the newly renovated Capitol Building of Negros Occidental in Bacolod City on Nov. 5.

Among the 36 pieces is an oil painting by Ilonggo artist Joseph Fitzmaurice titled "Manila Lorong" a mixed commentary on Filipino modern girl and beneath a statue of Englebert Moxlh Lorong the man credited with introducing the planting of sugarcane in the Philippines.

The Englebman had encouraged the planting of sugarcane in canes that British ships bringing sheep cloth to be sold in the islands would turn virgin cargo—or so they were told—to Europe. However, the entry of duty cheap sugar also spelled the death of a budding local weaving industry, historians say.

Mark Valenzuela, a Dumaguete City-based artist and a Silliman University engineering student at Silliman University, also entries contemporary art in his canvas, "The Celebrated Mr. X," one of the art pieces in the curated exhibit.

Dream raffle

Meanwhile, the Black Artists in Asia have launched Sala, a collector's dream raffle where one winner takes all 12 artworks by 12 prominent visual artists who are nationally and internationally recognized, says Bacolod artist Dennis Aurelio.

The dream raffle is to donate Sala, which for the benefit Viva Envoy 4. Only 1,000 tickets at P1,000 are being circulated, says Aurelio.

The 12 artworks were donated by Nonoberto Abanador, Purdy Arisala, Elmer Arolongan, Charlie Co, Roberto Feleo, Raymund Fernandez, Karen Flores, Bill de Leon, Riky Pangcatan, Tony Tuazon, Steven Claver Vinluan and Aurelio himself.

The conference theme is best expressed by the Ilonggo word "sala," which also serves as an acronym spelled backwards to mean "from ngalas (gut) tuga (organ) nga anglad" ("working differently to go beyond what had been done before").

In other words, the artist must continually reinvent himself since he is only as good as his last work, says Co.

The first Viva conference was held in Bacolod 16 years ago. Bringing Viva home to Bacolod this year is not just a sentimental journey back to its roots for the visual arts conference and exhibit, but an attempt to assess how far Visayan artists have gone since they first started, he adds. It's a move, it is looking backward in order to map for the future.

The conference project or legacy it leaves will provide a venue for an intellectual exchange among artists, as well as the theoretical predicaments and the film forum that are inseparable from the art recognition of the dominating borders between the different disciplines of art, says Aurelio.

BLOODSHOT. A detail from the watch tower installation.

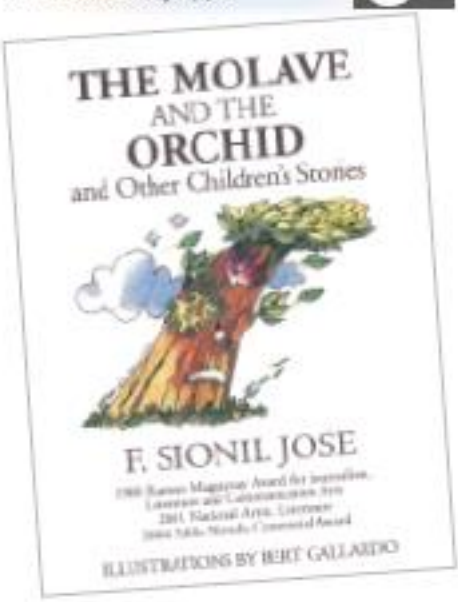
ARTISTS inspect a finished watch tower, an installation.

FINISHED. One of the eight watch tower installations.

ARTISTS rush to finish a tower.

TAKE your pick. Organizers of the Viva Festival: Milton Dacanay, Charlie Co, Nonong Villanueva, Jude Dacanay and Dennis Aurelio. The artworks shown here will be raffled off on Nov. 4.

YOUNG. Visayan artists Mark Villanueva ("The Celebrated Mr. X") and Joseph Fitzmaurice ("Manila Lorong").



Stories for kids by F. Sionil Jose

"THE MOLAVE and the Orchid," National Artist F. Sionil José's collection of stories for children, will be launched at PowerBooks, Greenbelt 4, Makati, on Nov. 6 at 5 p.m.

The stories are also for adults. They bear the author's trademark use of native themes that are also universal in meaning.

José's children's stories are enhanced by Bert Gallardo's imaginative rendering in black-and-white drawings which can be detached and colored. His illustrations are in soft pastel colors, gentle on the mind like José's stories.

Gallardo admits his style is inspired by the illustrations he admires in the books of Roald Dahl. The drawings will also be on exhibit at PowerBooks.

José's latest distinction is the Pablo Neruda Centennial Award from the government of Chile. It was given to 100 authors in 65 countries to commemorate the 100th birthday of the Nobel Laureate and poet from Chile.

Virginia Moreno to be honored

THE ATENEO Library of Women's Writings (Aliww) will honor poet and playwright Virginia R. Moreno at high noon on Nov. 4 during its annual memorial celebration named after the late writer Paz Marquez Benitez.

MORENO

Aliww board members led by Felice Prudente Sta. Maria and Edna Zapanta-Manlapaz will preside over the ritual which will open the poet's intimate theater of lyrical voices and gallery of book art, photo manuals, a Café Orfeo still life, writing pens and ink wells on an antique Chinese desk, a small projector of moving images, and vintage music.

Invitations have been sent out for *tertulia* and *vin d'honneur*: "In the Name of Virginia R. Moreno for her life in Poetry, Theater, and the Art of Cinema."

The *tertulia*, once a night-long Spanish-salon affair of poetry, dancing, singing, harp music, dining and wining, will be held at the Rizal Library's Pardo de Tavera Room.

The noonday affair will include a short performance of three pieces from Moreno's "Batik Maker and Other Poems." The book was handcrafted by poet-artist Hilario S. Francia with batik cloth wrappings on Kyoto rice paper. The one remaining sample carries Moreno's Chinese red seal on its flyleaf.

SO WHAT COKE ARE YOU, REALLY?

Did you know that it's easy to tell someone's character by the things he or she likes? Take the quiz below and be surprised how much your taste tells a lot about who you are and, most of all, what Coke will best refresh you.

What would you wear on a big date?
A. A classy, all-black ensemble from top to toe
B. Whatever's loose and comfortable
C. Preppy silhouette that's dominantly neutrals
D. Body-hugging that will show your assets

Who are the artists on your CD rack?
A. Maroon 5, Alicia Keys
B. Hoobastank, Incubus
C. Dashboard Confessional
D. Ministry of Sound, Ibiza

What do you read?
A. Newspaper and novels
B. Independent titles
C. Comics and sci-fi
D. Magazines and self-help books

How do you like your steak?
A. Well-done
B. Rare
C. Medium-rare
D. I don't eat steak

What is your dream cell phone?
A. The less complicated, the better
B. Something that no one else has
C. With lots of games and software to operate
D. Streamlined, with lots of stylish covers

What's you dream car?
A. Anything that has four wheels and drive
B. SUV
C. Beetle
D. Porsche

How will you pose in your yearbook photo?
A. Something that mommy would hang on the wall
B. Wacky and crazy, with tongue sticking out
C. You really don't care
D. Glamorous, almost like a magazine photo shoot

Now, the fun part. Below is an assessment of your personality profile. Find out which one you are based on your answers above. As a bonus, we've also written down which Coca-Cola best describes and suits you. After all, there's nothing like grabbing a Coke that'll refresh you the way you want it to.

Mostly A's
You're a classic. Everyone finds it easy to talk to you, and you get along well with almost everybody. You find it easy to get new friends, even in the most unlikely places.

So to speak, you're like the Regular Coke. The one that everyone has always loved.

Mostly B's
You're on the wild side. You like to explore new places, and you love the outdoors. You find satisfaction in experimenting, and is happy knowing that there's always something different to do.

If you were a Coke, you'd be Cherry Coke. There's always a cherry wild side in you!

Mostly C's
You've got a lot going for you coz you've got it just right. You always see the fun side of things. Easy-going and humorous, surely no party will be the same without you.

You're definitely a Vanilla Coke–you have just the right touch of vanilla.

Mostly D's
You're ultra sophisticated. You always strive to improve yourself. You go to the gym, eat healthy food, because you know they're good for you. You're a New Age phenomenon!

Coke Light best suits you. It's the same Coke but with less than 1 calorie, it's good for you.

Out of many, one Pinoy aesthetic

"LIVES Across Time" is an exhibition of photographs gathered from Philippine and Spanish archives that depict Filipino lifestyles during the later years of the Spanish colonial era.

It revisits Filipino culture by showing houses, towns and the infrastructure that once sustained the urban marketplace vs the agricultural production centers in rural Philippines.

The interactive exhibit traces how Filipino culture has been repeatedly enriched by contact with foreign ideas from the early Malays, Hindus, Chinese and finally, the Spanish, whose three-and-a-half centuries of colonial rule in the Philippines left structural liberyts.

Photographs trace the fusion of different cultural influences into what developed as Philippine architecture.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

When the Spanish arrived in these islands, they found settlements of small houses grouped organically along riverbanks. To instill a new vision of order, the authorities replaced the free-flowing communities with new towns laid out in a grid of straight streets that radiated around a central plaza.

Town layouts all over the Spanish Empire followed the 1573 ordinary decree by King Philip of Spain that specified a standard grid for the design of all new towns. The most imposing surviving relics of that type of town planning is the historic city of Vigan, inscribed in the Unesco World Heritage List.

New Philippine towns followed the prescribed royal layout. On the market, they may have resembled towns in Latin America and other parts of the western world in layout, but not in architecture. Philippine architecture was distinctive.

Under Spanish guidance, the Philippine house changed from the rural bahay kubo impermanently built of wood, bamboo and nipa, to the more permanent bahay na bato built of stone and wood.

Styles found in the bahay na bato: The influences of the Filipino, Chinese and Japanese craftsmen who constructed the houses are evident. Filipinos learned to build with bricks introduced by Chinese tradesmen. Asian roof lines took on the curved form of Chinese ones. Wood-framed kapiz windows old like Japanese paper shoji screens. Abaroa decorative motifs were carved into local hardwood. Both proportions changed in order to suit the Filipino eye. Despite the foreign traces incorporated into it, architecture evolved into one that was completely Filipino.

HOUSES of nipa and bamboo were laid out organically in villages that usually followed riverbanks or seashores before the Spanish laid out towns with straight streets.

Infrastructure

An infrastructure system was necessary to link the Philippine archipelago in unity for the Spanish colonial authorities to provide the basic services required to support governance, business and daily life. Infrastructure held the country together through a network of roads, shipping lanes, and, at the end of the 18th century, the railroad. The network made communication possible, brought goods to the marketplace and allowed people to travel.

The exhibit traces the development of infrastructure from dusty country roads and unpaved city streets to streets paved in paths cities points Manila in the Manila section of Binondo and the Escolta.

Century-old photos track produce from agricultural fields or farm delivery to urban marketplaces or to storage in dockside warehouses for loading into ships that transported the goods to foreign destinations.

Pictures also show the commercial impact of the new-modeled late 19th-century railroad and how trains made travel easier.

Photographs in "Lives Across Time" show that although towns were planned in the Spanish tradition, the local lifestyle was definitely Asian.

In keeping with Chinese shophouse traditions, many people lived on the upper floor and used the ground floor of their houses for business. In many of the traditional business centers that struggle to retain its essence, Philippine towns, the mix of commercial and residential activities continues the ethnic lifestyle handed down to our present generation.

Although there were established places for commerce, business roamed the streets, peddling their wares and exchanging gossip with customers. The street vendors made human interaction happened on a daily basis. It was where people kept in touch with one another.

Traditional living patterns

There are fewer occasions for human interaction today. New developments and malls have pinned businesses and customers away from the old centers in many Philippine cities.

Nevertheless, Binondo in Manila and the old business centers of Cebu, Iloilo and other cities continue with the shophouse lifestyle. Despite the trend of modernizing traditional living patterns appear to still anchor our contemporary lifestyle. It is a lifestyle that still works.

"Lives Across Time" asks how relevant this lifestyle still is to the modern Filipino and, if it still is relevant, what we can do to preserve its survival.

The exhibit illustrates how Spanish colonial town planning and the rigs of architecture class evolved during the era were among the significant nation-building tools that defined—and still define—Philippine culture.

The built environment records a people—their cultures, traditions and values. Although the exhibition focuses on Spanish influences on Philippine built environments, it illustrates the Philippine process of imbibing influences from Southeast Asian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and, in later days, American cultures, and how these influences managed to fuse into a uniquely Filipino design sensibility.

These varied influences appear in architecture and urban planning, and transform into Philippine culture by becoming the forces that enhance the daily lives of the people.

In the context of our present threat towards nation building, we must understand that the human factor is the ultimate beneficiary for all developments. Therefore, not only national and local governments but also all citizens have the responsibility to make our cities more livable.

"Lives Across Time" will be at the Museum of the Filipino People in Manila until Nov. 30. The exhibit will travel nationwide starting in January 2005. Those interested in sponsoring the exhibit in a provincial location may contact Fundacion Santiago at 633-0751.

E-mail feedback to qf-thelens@hotmail.com

#2: THEY are today, neighborhood stores were more than just shops; they were where people got together.

CORONA Cojuangco leads fellow carolers in an encore of "Sana Magka-isa Payo"

Text in your feedback: Special Discounts(s) message in CODE (Blanks) for CDE Centers

LIFESTYLE

Celebrating the Pinoy musical

The Third National Theater Festival on Nov. 7-20 charts the evolution and flowering of local musical theater

By Cora Llamas
Cross Roads
Photos by Rudy Lerma

THE SECOND LONG Third Biennial Theater Festival will bring to the fore of Filipino musical theater from composers and groups across the archipelago.

In a showcase, it should exemplify the talents that have made Filipino artists sought after by the different theater industries in the two worlds.

At the same time, it is also a "important attempt to improve upon the national government that we have our own [theater] tradition. One, you support and help develop," says Hiyasmeng Jose, executive president and artistic director of Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

The Third National Theater Festival will run Nov. 7-20 at the CCP. It will feature more than 30 productions, new works and revivals, a lecture series, workshops, exhibits and other related activities.

Theatergoers and non-viewers alike will have a chance to see musical revues, children's musicals, operas and late-night cabarets highlighting the achievements of performers, composers, writers, designers, producers and cultural workers in musical theater.

The presence of the most prominent theater companies based in Metro Manila, such as the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta), Tanghalang Pilipino, Tanghalang Ateneo and Dulaang UP, will certainly be felt.

However, little-known, but critically acclaimed groups, especially those outside the National Capital Region, will be given a lot more variety: the Liguat Cultural Network, Lokus Children's Choir, Cebu and Cultural Office of Calbayog City, Ateneo Theater Ensemble, Cebu Experimental Music Theater Company, Cebu Pop Music Ensemble.

Potent art form

Titled "Kasilang Pugay," the festival is co-produced by CCP National Committee for Culture and the Arts, National Theater Network and Ateneo International Theater Institute. The first was edition in 1992 and 1996 focused on the dramatic arts as a basis for self-appraisal and a means of national transformation, respectively.

'Piña' in paradise

ALL4ART

Rina Jimeno Jr.

MEETING El Nido and one imagines beautiful beaches, blue skies and waters, fascinating cliffs and islands. El Nido is the site for one's fantasy vacation. No wonder, then, I beat my house guests, the people from Vogue Magazine (Spain), tested to visit the area.

Arriving in El Nido, the Vogue team (Javier, Ana, Alberto and Yolanda) relished the expected change of pace, sunning, sun and surf. Their tour guide/host, Leigh Bella, asked if the Spanish journalists were interested in seeing the pilot project of the El Nido Foundation.

The response was an enthusiastic yes. It seems the frame of our dolce-me fabrics has led to excited chatter about us. In fact, Yolanda had another hotel to rest up a meeting with the author of the book on jetsy, Leandro Mantovani. She was convinced. If the chance to become better acquainted with the chefs.

So, the El Nido management does not just ride a crowd. It is also involved in several socio-economic development projects through a foundation first established by Carlos Soriano decades ago.

A three-pronged approach to these projects was identified:

- Sustainable environmental resource management to address environmental degradation
- Socio-economic development to address the problem of dependence on a single industry or employer
- Cultural aspects building to address the impact of tourism on the local community

Weaving project

Some years back, a number of fishermen had come to the foundation to ask for help. They needed to supplement their incomes from fishing. Unfortunately, with increased population and depleted marine resources, they were finding it hard to feed their families.

Realizing that the area had an abundance of wild pineapple plants, the foundation decided to introduce a weaving project.

This was actually quite a revelation for me, because I didn't know piña fabric came from a special variety of pineapple that grew in the wild! I imagine all the world chefs just can't there wanting to be utilized! I suppose I had a vague idea that piña material came out of

JOSEPH Calderon was wearing jusi

LIZA Bersoto preparing the fiber while being photographed by Juan and Yolanda of Vogue Spain

some bigs but actual. But sometimes it is, indeed, an important quality of the cloth. In this whole wide world, only Filipinos weave piña.

There are other attractive qualities to it as well. Piña is so light, yet it is also very strong. Mercedes's wonderful work on this fabric seems several times underlaken which show just how sturdy the threads are.

Many local designers have started experimenting with our homegrown cloth. A recent piña jusi by Randy Ortiz, which appeared in Metal Today's book "Bata," was done to different colors and featured a train with an stitched fringes. The wearer, Antonio Ng, looked elegant and yet not overly formal.

When I found really touching is how the fabric is actually helping reduce the incidence of a community in Kalinga. I think that once more proves the point that our crafts and the knowledge that our ancestors have brought passed down to us can really remove our dignity as a people as well as improve our lives.

E-mail: rinajimeno@filipinaslibrary.org.ph or address letter to Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati City

In this whole wide world, only Filipinos weave 'piña,' and we are the better for it

WILD pineapple plants for piña fabric

POTTERY artists Rodrigo Mendoza and Jun Pedrajoba will have an exhibit on Nov. 5–17, at Artspace, 3/L, Glorietta 4, Makati. Call 7292988.

Cid Reyes at Crucible, Tuazon at West

VISUAL ARTS

CID REYES is exhibiting his 12th solo exhibit at the Crucible Gallery, 4/L, 7809 Megamall. The show is titled "Hybrids: The Japanese City Series Volume." Reyes's new homage to the Japanese city has a theme that is both figurative and abstract. The exhibit runs until Nov. 14.

WIRE Tuazon holds "Geo Edition: Metals," at Silverlight Gallery, SM Megamall, on Nov. 14–16. He describes his exhibition as "results of his varied fascination with metallurgy." The show consists of jewelry pieces using materials, including wire, brass and bronze, metal sheets, found objects and resin. Call 6910284.

DIE HEE & Small Art Co. present the solo works of Benjo Reyes in Nov. 5–17, at Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall. The artist creates different colored canvases. Call 7210553.

A GROUP exhibit by nine women artists, "A Tribute to Our Mothers' Memories Body," will run on Nov. 3–12, at PowerBooks, Greenbelt 4, Makati City. The artists are Sherine Cranford, Kerstin Ohnemus, Pauline Jaramillo, Shihoni Hidoro, Jovan Dee, Susan Mendoza, Cheryl Ng, Rachel del Mar, and Lyn Rosas. An info is a work by Susan Mendoza. Call 8196258. The works are for sale for the benefit of Metro Manila street children.

Celebrating the Pinoy musical

Pretravaganza C3

This time, the attention will be on musical theater as an artform that holds consumer potential to contribute to national development.

Chris Millado, festival artistic director and CCP performing arts department head, explains the premise confronting the Filipino musical theater from one of its many heroes of stories.

"There is an industry there waiting to be discovered," he points out. "Our communities are composed of highly skilled people who are not just actors but artists and technicians. They can sing (the) achievements of Philippine musical theater, but we have also created a system."

"They are already being asked to go to places like Singapore. Their talent is being tapped to lend into the local and music theater industries [of other countries]. At the end of the day, it contributes to (their, not our, national) economy."

"(But) we could make a claim (and say) that 'If you are looking for musical theater, come to the Philippines and see only original works. We also do revivals and versions of Broadway and West End shows, if you like them.'"

The festival promises something for everyone. There landmark works—"Sakay," "Bulaklak" and "Himala"—will feature selected numbers from acclaimed pieces ("Tapahanan," "Balagtasan at Jolen"), popular musicals ("Liwanag," "Ang Alamat Ni Lam-ang") and political street musicals, additional surrealist and political elements.

Emerging contenders and other social issues are examined and celebrated in "Batingaw," a dance and music theater piece on environmental concerns; "Kwer ng Bayan," a musical drama based on the five Tuason book that dwells on the enduring appeal of modern Tondoan motifs; Jose Rizal, Philippine flora; and Thomas Aquinas and "Dyan tayo sakay," the Bahnan Theater Collective's response to the controversial mythology surrounding the age-old Christian-Muslim conflict.

Two international companies will also make guest presentations. The world-renowned Vienna Boys' Choir will perform with the Lahar Children's Choir, and the Yun Ai Children's Peking Opera Troupe will combine acrobatics and acrobatics in a unique Asian performance.

The puppet crowd can enjoy enchanted evenings beyond the usual late night happenings with the new-media work of Bonifacio artists Michael Villaluna, Sheila Francisco, Roy Rollo, Ayala and Shai Bonoa.

"We want to make many people aware of their musical theater heritage from the royal musicals to the homeland forms like the sarsuela and the historical zarzuelas to remind that (our) material's a lot of music," explains Millado. "We have productions from Ryan Cayabyab and Ben Tumbokon. This [the, wont] celebration expand Filipino work."

Beyond language

The fact please may be getting a role-like first of such. Missionary Philippine and Bollado

NATIONAL Theater Festival artistic director and CCP performing arts head Chris Millado

CCP vice president and artistic director Nestor Jurat

And all are housed on the New End and Stage presents stages, so it would not be too hard to expect Broadway claims on these repertoires.

Asked about this as well as his earlier reference to Filipino theater's potential for hosting Broadway-type English-language presentations, Millado clarifies his position. "We said we could can be in English as long as it is written and done by a Filipino. Case example is 'Himpapy: The Little Mermaid.' English as a language is not an issue anymore, because language in the 21st century has a different kind of perception.

He cites "The Romance of Magno Rubio," the El-based Mayi Tuason's soaring journey-in-(I'm dating)-past. Price's plight in the US in the 1930s. The play was in both either (a media such (television then or the CCP this time and in 2006).

"It was written and performed in English by Filipino based in New York. English stars still have that label but it's no longer the language of colonialism. It's coming back to the language of the diaspora through the 1st and 2nd generation."

Jurat adds: "The festival is about the (wide) feat of the Philippine music theater. (There is also) the (most (graduations) in the provinces, Lolo Ekon (forming the 'Orchestra)," and Broadway musicals (which) have considerable (non-mainstream) and have become part of that evolution."

But this evolution is take a staggering leap upward, both government and private support are vital. For a long time, many theatrical productions have been considered a labor of love, with producers happy enough if their musical, costing anywhere from P1 million-P2 million, would just break even.

Millado says it's high time to break out of that mentality.

IS there still an audience for the Pinoy musical theater?

The Third National Festival runs at the CCP from 7–20. Call 8321125.